MARVEL

SILVER SURFER

PARABLE

LEE • MOEBIUS • POLLARD

©2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.

WWW.MARVEL.COM

GALACTUS HAS CONVERTED HUMANITY INTO HIS FOLLOWERS, AND HE'S LEADING THEM TO THEIR DOOM!

The planet-devouring demigod's only challenger is the hero he himself trapped on Earth: the Silver Surfer. It's a war for Earth's worship, but how much will be left when it's over? Plus: The Surfer must save his world and ours from the planet-sized peril posed by the Enslavers! With guest appearances by the Hulk, Spider-Man, Wolverine and more!

Collecting *Silver Surfer (1988)#1-2* and *Silver Surfer: The Enslavers.*

T+

MARVEL

MARVEL

SILVER SURFER

PARABLE

LEE • MOEBIUS • POLLARD

©2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.

WWW.MARVEL.COM

MARVEL®

© 1988 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.

TM

$1.00 US
$1.25 CAN
1 DEC
CC 01185

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

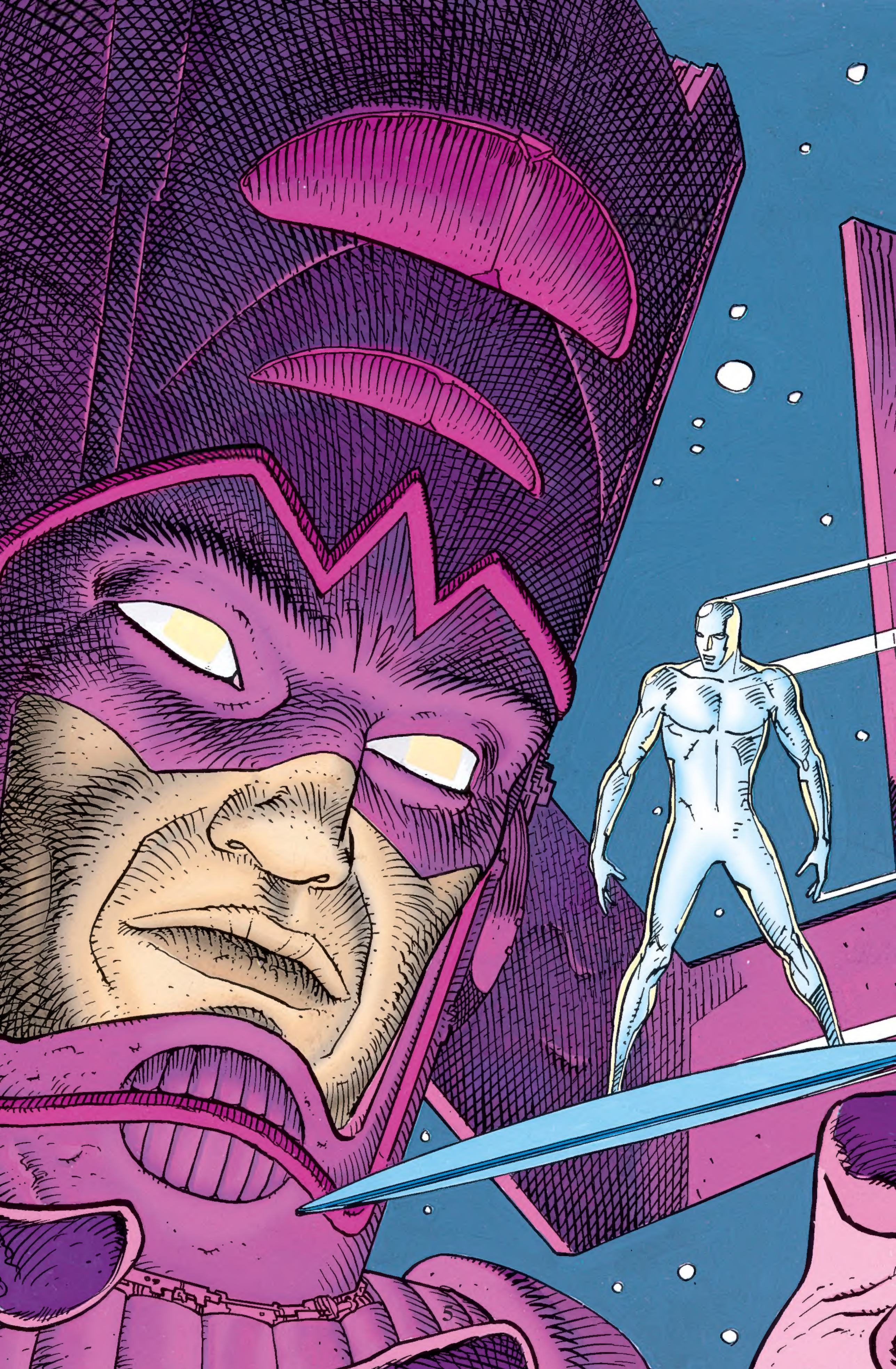
EPIC COMICS

#1 IN A TWO-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES

THE SILVER SURFER®

© 2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.

WWW.MARVEL.COM



PARABLE

I AM ASLEEP WHEN IT FIRST APPEARS.

I SLEEP TOO MUCH THESE DAYS.

LOOK! A SHOOTING STAR!

NO DEAR. IT'S TOO CLOSE! PROBABLY A SATELLITE, FALLING BACK TO EARTH.

FOR SOME, SLEEP IS A RESTING FROM THE DAY'S ENDEAVORS. FOR ME IT'S AN ESCAPE FROM REALITY.

BUT FROM THIS REALITY I SHALL FIND NO ESCAPE.

DO YOU SEE IT?

OF COURSE! I'VE BEEN TRACKING IT FOR HOURS!

GOOD, SO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS.

NO! ONLY WHAT IT ISN'T!

IT ISN'T A METEOR,

THEN, IT MUST BE SOME SPACE STATION HARDWARE FALLING FROM ORBIT...

IMPOSSIBLE! THE TRAJECTORY IS ALL WRONG!

LOOK AT THIS!

M2

© 2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

IT'S A SPACE SHIP!

BUT-- THE SIZE OF IT!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN BUILT FOR A RACE OF GIANTS!

AND IT'S HEADING STRAIGHT FOR EARTH!

IN-- INCRED-IBLE!

WITHIN SECONDS, THE NEWS IS OUT... A GIGANTIC ALIEN SPACECRAFT IS ABOUT TO LAND AMONG US.

AT FIRST THE REPORT IS GREETED WITH DISBELIEF.

BUT IT SOON TURNS TO SHOCK, FEAR AND MOUNTING TERROR.

AND STILL I SLEEP.

SENSES NUMBED BY HORROR FILMS AND SCIENCE FICTION TALES, MANKIND EXPECTS THE WORST. OVERNIGHT, THE THIN VENEER OF CIVILIZATION IS STRIPPED AWAY, TO BE REPLACED BY BRUTAL, MINDLESS ANARCHY!

BRAILS

BRAILS

BAILS

43

THE SOUND OF RIOTS AND MAYHEM DISTURB MY SLUMBER. SLOWLY I AWAKE. I LOOK AROUND. THE CITY IS A SHAMBLES.

I FEEL NO SURPRISE. I HAVE SEEN TOO MUCH OF MAN'S INSANITY.

I HAVE LITTLE COMPASSION FOR THEM.

ALL THEIR WOUNDS ARE SELF-INFLICTED.

THE STENCH AND SQUALOR NO LONGER TOUCH ME.

IN MY MIND I CAN ALWAYS ESCAPE.

MEMORIES OF THE PAST ARE NOW MY SHELTER.

FOR THE BODY MAY WITHER, BUT LOVE IS ETERNAL.

MOVE IT, CREEP!

HEY, SCUZZ-BAG! WE'RE TALKIN' TO YA!

MOEBIUS 4

WHAT'S THIS THING HE'S GOT WRAPPED UP?

LOOKS LIKE WE CAUGHT US A LOOTER, MUST BE SOMETHIN' HE STOLE.

OKAY, PUNK, ON YER FEET, WE'RE TAKIN' YA IN.

TOO HEAVY FOR AN IRONING BOARD!

I'LL OPEN IT UP 'N SEE WHAT IT IS!

HEY!

?!

IT'S MINE.

I DON'T WANT TO HURT THEM. BUT IF I MUST...

MY ARM! HIS GRIP WAS LIKE--!

RESISTIN' ARREST, HUH? OKAY, MISTER, YOU JUST BOUGHT IT!

MOEBIUS

FROM HIGH ABOVE, A MIGHTY ROAR-- A BLINDING LIGHT.

I AM FORGOTTEN. ALL IS FORGOTTEN. HUMAN FLESH IS STUNNED INTO IMMOBILITY.

I VANISH INTO THE NIGHT.

THE GREAT SHIP DESCENDS.

EARTH WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN.

M6

INCREDULOUS AND UNCOMPREHENDING THE CREW OF A TRAFFIC HELICOPTER IS CLOSEST TO THE HOVERING BEHEMOTH WHICH SEEMS TO BLOT OUT THE SKY ABOVE...

WH-- WHAT **IS** IT?

I DUNNO! BUT WE AIN'T STAYIN' AROUND TO FIND OUT!

NEVER BEFORE HAVE HUMAN EYES BEHELD SUCH A SIGHT. THE ONLY THOUGHT IN EVERY MIND IS TO RUN, FLEE, SEEK SHELTER-- ANYTHING TO ESCAPE THE NUMBING, NIGHTMARISH APPARITION WHICH SLOWLY DESCENDS LOWER, LOWER, LOWER...

THE SOUND IS DEAFENING!

WE'RE DOOMED! DOOMED!

IT'S BIGGER THAN A MOUNTAIN!

SOMEONE--SOMETHING--IS COMING OUT!

I AM

GALACTUS!

THE MOMENT IS MINE!

THE POWER IS MINE!

THE MAJESTY IS MINE!..

TOO LONG HAVE YOU WALLOWED IN WAR, ENDURED POVERTY, BEEN BESET BY CRIME!

IN RETURN FOR YOUR HOMAGE, I BRING YOU A NEW ERA!

IN EVERY BATTLE ZONE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, FIGHTING HAS CEASED. THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW ACTS OF TERRORISM, NO ONE DARES INCUR THE DISPLEASURE OF GALACTUS!

FOR NO ONE KNOWS THE EXTENT OF HIS POWER!

ALMOST OVERNIGHT, A NEW RELIGION HAS SPRUNG UP AROUND THE AWESOME BEING, MAKING HIM AN OBJECT OF WORSHIP!

KCL

THIS IS THE CHANCE I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

I CAN'T LET THOSE OTHER CHARLATANS GET THE JUMP ON ME! GALACTUS CAN MAKE ME THE GREATEST EVANGELIST OF ALL!

HE FRIGHTENS ME, COLTON. HE SEEMS SO COLD, SO MERCILESS. HE DISPLAYS NOT A SINGLE SHRED OF EMOTION.

YOU KNOW NOTHING OF SUCH THINGS, ELYNA!

M 9

MY TV MINISTRY ONCE REACHED MILLIONS AROUND THE GLOBE...

...BUT THE PUBLIC IS FICKLE. I'VE BEEN LOSING CONVERTS!

GALACTUS WILL CHANGE ALL OF THAT!

WAIT TILL MY NEXT TELE-CAST!

HOW COLTON? WHY DO YOU SPEAK IN RIDDLES? YOU ARE MY BROTHER AND I LOVE YOU BUT I HAVE NEVER UNDER-STOOD YOU!

I WALK AMONG THEM. BUT ALWAYS APART.

ART

SEX

BAR

TOSCA

I HAVE GIVEN THEM UP FOR LOST A LONG TIME AGO.

LOWEN BEER

BUD FOR YOU

IT'S COLTON CANDEW-- ON TV!

GALACTUS HAS COME IN ANSWER TO MY PRAYER. IT IS I WHO SUMMONED HIM! PRAISE THE LORD!

SOME DARE TO QUESTION. THEIR BODIES ARE BATTERED, THEIR VOICES STILLED.

WHY SHOULD WE BELIEVE BLINDLY? WHAT IF HE'S--

KILL THE LOUSY, ANTI-GOD!

GALACTUS WILL SAVE US!

UUNHH!

WE ARE HIS CHILDREN!

HE WILL LEAD US TO NIRVANA!

I SAY UNTO YOU--HE IS THE WAY AND THE WONDER!

HEED YOU HIS PROPHET! I SING HIS TRUE GLORY!

I AM COME TO SET YOU FREE, FREE FROM GUILT! FREE FROM WORTHLESS MAN-MADE LAWS!

IF YOU WOULD BE SAVED, DO WHAT YOU WILL! TAKE WHAT YOU WILL!

THERE IS NO WRONG! THERE IS NO SIN! PLEASURE IS ALL!

"SO SPEAK GALACTUS!

AND SO THE MADNESS BEGINS.

FREED OF ALL INHIBITIONS BY THE PRONOUNCEMENT OF THE GOD FIGURE, I SEE SANITY GIVING PLACE TO SAVAGERY.

LIQUOR

BANK

LOOTING, PILLAGING AND PLUNDER ARE THE ORDER OF THE DAY.

IT IS THE AGE OF GALAC-TUS!

VOICES OF REASON ARE SHOUTED DOWN BY THE DEAFENING ROAR OF VIOLENCE...

...UNTIL MARTIAL LAW BRINGS AN UNEASY HALT TO THE CARNAGE.

A FEARSOME QUIET FALLS OVER THE RAVAGED LAND.

IT IS GOOD YOU HAVE COME. THE PRESIDENT HAS CALLED AN EMER-GENCY MEETING.

THE PRESI-DENT?

HE COUNTS FOR NOTHING SINCE THE COMING OF ALL-POWER-FUL GALACTUS.

MIZ

BUT, REVEREND CANDEW, WE MUST FIND A WAY TO RESTORE ORDER AGAIN.

WE WILL DO SO WHEN GALACTUS DECREES. NOT BEFORE.

BUT...

HUMANITY HAS WANTED HIS COMING SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME.

HE IS THE POWER! IT IS NOT FOR MAN TO QUESTION HIS WORD OR HIS WILL.

HE IS LAW ABSOLUTE.

AND I AM HIS PROPHET.

YOU LIE!

FALSE PROPHET, YOU BRING SHAME TO YOUR CALLING.

WHO IS THAT RANTING DERELICT?

HOW DID HE GET HERE?

THE BUILDING HAS BEEN TOTALLY SECURED.

NO MATTER. GUARD... SILENCE THE HERETIC!

NO, COLTON. THERE'S BEEN ENOUGH KILLING.

HE'S ONLY ONE MAN, ONE VOICE. HE CANNOT HARM YOU.

SUIT YOURSELF, ELYNA. HE IS BENEATH MY NOTICE.

YOU ARE MERCIFUL. I THOUGHT THAT QUALITY HAD VANISHED ON EARTH.

I HAVE A NEW WORLD TO CREATE.

WHO ARE YOU? WHY DO YOU OPPOSE MY BROTHER?

YOUR BROTHER IS DRIVEN BY A LUST FOR POWER. IN THE NAME OF RELIGION HE WILL SUBVERT MANKIND.

HOW CAN YOU BE SURE OF THIS?

HOW CAN YOU NOT?

DOES HE NOT ESPOUSE THE TEACHING OF GALACTUS, THUS MAKING A MOCKERY OF ALL THAT MAN HAS ACHIEVED!

BUT GALACTUS IS A GOD! SURELY WE MUST OBEY.

OBEY?

OBEY PRECEPTS THAT TURN BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER?

OBEY WHEN CHILDREN DESTROY THEIR SCHOOLS?

THAT IMPRISON THE POOR AND THE HELPLESS?

I--HAVE HAD THOSE SAME THOUGHTS...

BUT I FELT GUILTY-- BECAUSE I LACKED FAITH.

I SOUGHT TO FORSAKE THE HUMAN RACE, TO LEAVE THIS PATHETIC WORLD TO ITS OWN MAD DEVICES.

FAITH WITHOUT JUDGEMENT MERELY DEGRADES THE SPIRIT DIVINE.

BUT PERHAPS I AM MADDEST OF ALL-- FOR I CANNOT TURN AWAY.

WHAT INSANE CONCEIT POSSESSES YOU? YOU THINK YOU CAN DEFY GALACTUS?

YES.

FOR, IN TRUTH, ANY MAN CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

MOEB 14

IT IS NOT GIVEN TO US TO KNOW WHETHER WE SHALL SUCCEED OR NOT.

IN FAILURE THERE IS NO DIS-GRACE.

THERE CAN BE BUT ONE ULTIMATE SHAME--

--THE COWARD-ICE OF NOT HAVING TRIED.

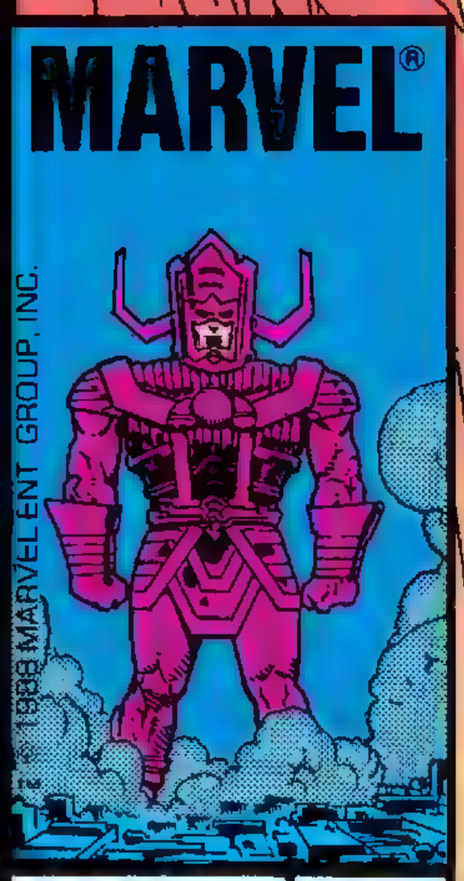
WHO-- WHAT ARE YOU?

I AM CALLED THE SILVER SURFER.

M15

#2 IN A TWO-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES

THE SILVER SURFER®



$1.00 US
$1.25 CAN
2 JAN
01185

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

EPIC COMICS

© 2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.

WWW.MARVEL.COM

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I HEARD OF YOU. BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST A LEGEND.

WHO CAN KNOW WHERE REALITY ENDS AND LEGEND BEGINS?

DO WE NOT SEE WITH OUR HEARTS AND OUR MINDS AS WELL AS OUR EYES?

YOU ARE NOT OF EARTH. THERE IS SUCH A-- PURITY-- ABOUT YOU.

PURITY DWELLS IN THE SOUL, NOT THE BIRTH-PLACE.

DON'T GO. GALACTUS IS TOO POWERFUL. MEN WORSHIP HIM. NO ONE WILL HELP YOU. YOU'LL BE ALONE. YOU'LL BE DESTROYED!

IF WE TURN FROM BATTLE BECAUSE THERE IS LITTLE HOPE OF VICTORY, WHERE THEN WOULD VALOR BE?

LET IT EVER BE THE GOAL THAT STIRS US, NOT THE ODDS.

YOUR SOUL IS RICH IN WARMTH AND KINDNESS, ELYNA.

IT IS FOR SUCH AS YOU THAT THE SURFER AGAIN SHALL SOAR.

M16

© 2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

GALACTUS AND I HAVE FOUGHT BEFORE. PERHAPS IT IS OUR DESTINY TO ENGAGE IN A CONFLICT WITHOUT END.

I SEEK TO SAVE A WORLD.

HIS IS THE GREATEST POWER BY FAR, BUT HE FIGHTS FOR HIMSELF ALONE.

A WORLD THAT HAS TURNED AGAINST ME.

GALACTUS! I AM HERE!

I KNEW YOU WOULD COME.

WHY HAVE YOU BROKEN YOUR SOLEMN PLEDGE?

YOU VOWED NEVER TO ATTACK PLANET EARTH.

m 17

NO PLEDGE HAS BEEN BROKEN. NO ATTACK MADE. I HAVE COME IN PEACE.

BUT THE DAMAGE YOU HAVE DONE.

I MERELY ALLOW THE UN-SUSPECTING HUMANS TO DESTROY THEM-SELVES-- IN MY NAME.

LOOK! UP ABOVE!

SOMETHING FLYING NEAR THE ALL-POWER-FUL ONE!

A WHITE FIGURE--ON A FLYING BOARD!

I'VE SEEN PICTURES OF HIM! IT'S-- THE SILVER SURFER!

NEVER BEFORE HAS MIGHTY GALACTUS STOOPED TO SUCH DECEIT.

NEVER BEFORE HAS THE GREAT HUNGER SO CONSUMED ME.

AND SO YOU PLAY GOD! HAVING PLEDGED NOT TO SLAY EARTH BY FORCE, YOU WILL DO SO BY GUILE!

I CANNOT ALLOW IT.

YOU CANNOT PREVENT IT.

M18

INCREDIBLE! HE AND THAT BOARD SEEM TO BE ONE!

AS YOU WERE ONCE MY HERALD, I WISH YOU NO HARM. TAKE FLIGHT, WHILE YOU CAN.

GALACTUS, I KNOW YOU ARE BEYOND GOOD OR EVIL, BUT YOU SWORE NEVER TO HARM PLANET EARTH.

TV2

TV7

I HAVE HARMED NO ONE. I NEVER PLEDGED TO STOP THEM FROM HARMING THEMSELVES.

IF ONLY THEY COULD HEAR HIM, BUT HIS WORDS WERE FOR ME ALONE.

MY ONLY RECOURSE IS TO REASON WITH THEM, TO MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND.

GALACTUS IS MIGHTY, HIS POWER AWESOME.

BUT ONLY THE COWARD OR SYCOPHANT WORSHIPS POWER AND MIGHT.

WHAT HAS DIVINITY TO DO WITH THE SHOW OF STRENGTH OR ABANDONMENT OF REASON?

WHERE IS THE HOLINESS IN BRUTALITY AND GREED?

FLAWED AS MAN MAY BE, HE HAS EVER ASPIRED TO NOBILITY, DESPITE WAR AND CRIME, POVERTY AND PESTILENCE, THE HUMAN SPIRIT STILL BURNS BRIGHT. YOU MUST NOT LET GALACTUS QUENCH THAT FLAME.

HE'S TRYIN' TO TURN US AGAINST GALACTUS!

KILL THE DIRTY, ROTTEN ANTI-GOD!

M19

I SPEAK THE TRUTH.

GET LOST, SICKO! GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM!

SOMEBODY SHUT UP THAT LYING, WHITE-SKINNED FREAK!

JUST WAIT, BALDY! GALACTUS'LL CRUSH YA LIKE A FLEA!

WHY WAIT? LET'S LEAN ON 'IM OURSELVES!

YOU MUST LISTEN WHILE THERE STILL IS TIME.

HOW DOES A FINK LIKE THAT GET ON T.V.?

I DUNNO, BUT I'D LIKE TO GET MY HANDS ON 'IM!

SOMEBODY'S GOTTA STOP HIS LOUSY GODLESS MOUTH!

THIS AIN'T MURDER!

IT'S LIKE SQUASHIN' A DIRTY, ROTTEN ROACH!

THE FORCE FIELD OF MY POWER COSMIC WILL PROTECT ME.

SO, ONCE AGAIN THEY RESPOND WITH MINDLESS VIOLENCE!

THAT'S IT, MAN! LET'S WASTE THE SUCKER!

BUT HOW TO PROTECT **THEM** FROM THEIR OWN INSANITY?

M'20

WILL THERE NEVER BE AN END TO THEIR INSANE FANATICISM?

WHY DO THEY TURN TO VIOLENCE IN THE NAME OF THE ONE THEY WORSHIP?

HAVE THEY SO SOON FORGOTTEN THAT THE GREATEST POWER IS LOVE?

THEY THINK ME DEFENSELESS BECAUSE I DO NOT STRIKE BACK.

BUT I DARE NOT UNLEASH MY POWER COSMIC AGAINST THEM.

THEY ARE NOT EVIL-- MERELY UNTHINK-ING.

AND TRULY, THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.

ENOUGH! LET THE FIRING CEASE!

GALACTUS NEEDS NO MORTAL WEAPONRY TO STRIKE IN HIS BEHALF!

MY FORMER HERALD HAS CHALLENGED ME FOR THE FINAL TIME!

MZ1

I FEEL NO ANGER. NOT FOR ME IS THE TYRANNY OF BASE EMOTION.

BUT THE GREAT HUNGER GNAWS AND I MUST FEED.

THUS, WITHOUT RANCOR OR WRATH I SAY TO YOU--

IF YOU MUST DIE THAT I MAY LIVE--THEN DIE YOU SHALL.

GALACTUS MUST SURVIVE!

HE CANNOT MATCH MY SPEED, BUT HE CARES LITTLE FOR THE HAVOC HE WREAKS WHILE STRIKING OUT AT ME!

THE DESTRUCTION BEGGARS DESCRIPTION. EVEN THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR GALACTUS CAN FIND NO SAFETY AS THEY FLEE IN TERROR.

BUT SOME THERE ARE WHO CANNOT FLEE.

AND THERE ARE SOME WITH THE SPEED AND THE POWER COSMIC.

BUT-- JUST MINUTES AGO-- I TRIED TO KILL YOU!

YOU STRUCK IN THE NAME OF YOUR GOD. SEE NOW WHAT SUCH BLIND DEVOTION HAS WROUGHT!

YOU CAN'T GO BACK THERE YOU'VE NO CHANCE AGAINST GALACTUS.

THERE IS ALWAYS A CHANCE WHILE LIFE ENDURES.

COLTON...

HALT. YOU MUST COME NO FURTHER.

THE REVERED PROPHET OF GALACTUS IS IN MEDITATION.

HE SEEKS SILENT SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE... A ONE-NESS WITH THE MASTER.

WHO HAS DARED DISTURB THE RITUAL? WHO HAS SHATTERED THE SACRED KARMA? LET THE INTERLOPER STEP FORWARD.

I'M SORRY, COLTON. I HAD TO SPEAK TO YOU.

YOU ARE MY SISTER.

THEREFORE, IN THE NAME OF GALACTUS, I FORGIVE YOU.

BUT HAVE A CARE, ELYNA. DO NOT SEEK TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP.

I'VE COME TO CAUTION YOU, COLTON, TO SOUND A WARNING.

PERHAPS THERE IS A FOLLY IN FOLLOWING GALACTUS SO BLINDLY.

PER-HAPS HE IS NOT...

BE SILENT, ELYNA. YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, MUST NOT UTTER WORDS OF HERESY!

HERESY? IS IT HERESY TO THINK, TO QUESTION?

WHY DID THE SUPREME BEING GIVE US MINDS IF NOT TO USE THEM? ARE WE JUST SHEEP TO BLINDLY FOLLOW THE MAD DICTATES OF A STRANG-ER? AS THE SILVER SURFER SAID---

ENOUGH!

BUT THE SURFER IS WISE. YOU MUST OPEN YOUR MIND--

--LISTEN TO REASON--

I'LL HEAR NO MORE! YOUR WORDS GIVE OFFENSE TO MY EARS AND MY HEART.

MY OWN SISTER HAS BEEN DEVIL-TAINTED!

NO!

REMOVE HER FROM MY SIGHT!

I DARE NOT WEAKEN OR LET OTHERS LOSE FAITH.

TRUTH IS BUT AN AB-STRACTION. POWER IS ALL!

ONLY THOSE WHO BELIEVE BLIND-LY CAN BE CONTROLLED LIKE PUPPETS! ONLY THOSE WHO CLOSE THEIR GOD-GIVEN MINDS CAN BE ENSLAVED BY SUCH AS I!

GALACTUS IS A STEPPING STONE IN MY QUEST FOR POWER. WHAT DOES HIS DIVINITY OR LACK OF IT MATTER?

THE SILVER SUR-FER MUST BE SILENCED, LEST HE WAKE THE MASSES

BELIEVE YE IN GALACTUS! FOR HIS IS THE POWER!

THE POWER THAT SHALL BE MINE.

NEVER BEFORE HAS A BATTLE SO BEEN TELEVISED-- SO WITNESSED BY THE ENTIRE WORLD!

HEAR ME, MY ONCE AND FORMER HERALD!

YIELD-- AND YOU LIVE!

OPPOSE ME AND DIE!

DEATH COMES TO ALL, I FEAR IT NOT.

AND NEVER BEFORE HAS MY CAUSE BEEN SO JUST, ALBEIT MISUNDERSTOOD.

WHAT MADNESS POSSESSES YOU TO FIGHT FOR THOSE WHO REVILE AND REJECT YOU?

IF IT BE MAD TO STAND FOR THE WEAK AND THE MISGUIDED...

...THEN SUCH IS MY CHOICE, RATHER THAN COLD AND SOULLESS SANITY.

EACH TIME I EVADE HIS BLAST ANOTHER BUILDING CRUMBLES.

ONLY BY FLEEING CAN I GAIN TIME--

--TIME TO DEVISE A WAY TO CONQUER THE UNCONQUERABLE.

I HURL A FINAL CRY OF DEFIANCE...

...AND I AM GONE.

THE SILVER SURFER HAS FLED.

THE WORLD WONDERS-- HAS HE ESCAPED THE AWESOME VENGEANCE OF THE DEITY FROM SPACE?

M.

THERE CAN BE NO HIDING PLACE FROM GALACTUS. I HAVE BUT TO WILL IT, AND MY STAR-SPANNING COSMOS CRAFT WILL FIND THE STAR-BORN FUGITIVE.

FOR I AM POWER!

AND POWER IS ALL!

SING YE THE PRAISES OF LORD GALACTUS!

GLORY BE TO HIM WHO WALKETH AMONGST US!

HE IS THE WORD AND THE WILL AND THE WAY!

FOR HE HATH BROKEN THE BONDAGE OF MAN-MADE LAW!

YEA, GALACTUS HATH SET US FREE!

MY SOARING BOARD OBEYS ME NO LONGER.

I AM CAUGHT IN THE BEAM OF GALACTUS' SHIP!

OUR CAMERA CREWS HAVE SIGHTED THE SILVER SURFER HEADING THIS WAY.

GALACTUS WAS RIGHT. NONE CAN ESCAPE HIM.

EMMA, SHUT HIM UP!

YOU MUST BE QUIET, DEAR, THEY'LL ACCUSE US OF HERESY!

I DON'T CARE WHAT ANYONE SAYS. I HATE GALACTUS!

PLEASE DON'T LET HIM HURT THE SURFER!

THE PROPHET CANDELL HAS DECREED EXCOMMUNICATION FOR ANYONE WHO QUESTIONS THE WORD OF GALACTUS

HOW CAN YOU FOLLOW MY BROTHER SO BLINDLY? CAN'T YOU SEE THE HARM THAT--

DON'T SAY IT. HEARING SUCH BLASPHEMY COULD COST ME MY LIFE.

BUT IF EVERYONE IS TOO FRIGHTENED TO THINK, TO QUESTION, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US?

CMU

211

MISS COLTON! WHERE IS YOUR BROTHER?

THE REVERED PROPHET MAY NOT BE DISTURBED.

DON'T GIVE ME THAT BULL, MISTER! I AM HERE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS!

THAT GALACTUS OF YOURS HAS CAUSED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF DAMAGE TO MY CITY--

TO SAY NOTHING OF THE COUNTLESS LIVES HIS CARNAGE HAS COST!

IF YOUR PHONY PROPHET HAS A PIPE LINE TO THAT OVERGROWN FREAK I WANT TO SEE HIM!

AND I MEAN NOW!

YOU DARE MAUGN THE MIGHTY STAR GOD AND HIS CHOSEN PROPHET?

YOU THINK A PETTY POLITICIAN LIKE YOURSELF HAS POWER? I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT POWER IS!

IN THE NAME OF GALACTUS.. **DEATH** TO THE ANTI-GODS!

YOU'RE INSANE! IS THIS WHAT YOU CALL RELIGION? WHAT SORT OF RELIGION PREACHES HATRED AND VIOLENCE?

YOU'RE MADDER THAN HE IS TO REASON WITH A FANATIC!

LOOK! OUR HELICOPTER!

THE PROPHET'S SISTER HAS TAKEN THEIR SHIP!

WE'LL PAY WITH OUR LIVES IF SHE GETS AWAY!

SHOOT HER DOWN!

SPAK

YOU HIT HER!

HE-- STRUCK A VITAL SPOT. I'M LOSING-- TOO MUCH-- BLOOD.

BUT I MUST-- REACH GALACTUS! MUST-- STOP THE HORROR!

CANNOT-- DIE IN VAIN.

THE POWER BEAM STILL DRAWS ME BACK.

I CANNOT RESIST IT.

NEVER HAVE I MEANT YOU HARM. YET YOU HAVE EVER DEFIED ME.

PLEDGE TO CHALLENGE ME NO LONGER, AND I'LL GRANT YOU YOUR LIFE.

A PLEDGE FOR A PLEDGE, GALACTUS.

LEAVE PLANET EARTH, VOW TO NEVER RETURN.

ELSE I FIGHT TILL I DIE.

M.

THEN DIE YOU SHALL!

HE IS TOPPLING THOSE SKYSCRAPERS LIKE TOYS!

IT'S THE SURFER HE'S AFTER!

BUT THE SKY-RIDER IS TOO FAST FOR HIM.

HIS SPEED CAN'T SAVE HIM FOR LONG. GALACTUS IS TOO POWERFUL!

I COULD FORGIVE YOUR CHALLENGE-- BUT NOT YOUR INSOLENCE.

YOU DARE SPEAK OF INSOLENCE? YOU, WHO WOULD SHATTER A WORLD!

CONSEQUENCES ARE FOR LESSER BEINGS, I AM GALACTUS. THAT IS SANCTION ENOUGH.

YOU WHO ARE BEYOND ARTIFICE, BEYOND DECEIT, WHY DO YOU LET THEM THINK YOU A GOD?

IS GOD NOT POWER? IS GOD NOT MIGHT? NEVER HAVE I SEEN A DEITY. HOW THEN SHALL I KNOW I AM NOT DIVINE?

SURELY, TRUE DIVINITY IS LOVE AND GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE SUPREME.

YET, WITH ALL YOUR POWER, YOU KNOW NOT THE WHY NOR THE WHEREFORE OF LIFE.

ENOUGH! I WEARY OF SUCH PLATITUDES! IT IS TIME TO END THIS BLEAK CHARADE.

BUT HOLD! WHAT FLYING VESSEL DARES APPROACH?

THE PAIN-- IT WON'T STOP!

EVERY-THING-- GROWING DARK...

BUT-- CAN'T CLOSE-- MY EYES. CAN'T FAIL-- NOW.

GALACTUS

I'VE-- REACHED HIM-- AT LAST.

REVERED PROPHET, I BRING NEWS OF YOUR SISTER.

NOT NOW! NOT DURING MY HOUR OF SACRED MEDITATION.

BUT, YOUR BENEV-OLENCE, IT IS MOST URGENT

WHAT CAN BE MORE URGENT THAN MY HOLY ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH DIVINE TELEPATHIC COMMUNICATION WITH OUR LORD GALACTUS?

I BEG FORGIVENESS, REVERED ONE. I DID NOT KNOW.

AS PROPHET OF THE LORD, I MUST LEARN TO BEAR SUCH BURDENS, SPEAK YOUR PIECE.

YOUR SISTER, SHE HAS ES-CAPED.

PERHAPS IT IS JUST AS WELL.

DO NOT PURSUE HER. SHE CANNOT DO US HARM.

BUT SHE HAS TAKEN AN AIRCRAFT, SHE HEADS FOR GALACTUS.

IS SHE BLIND TO THE DAN-GER?

THEY AWAIT YOU IN THE COMMAND ROOM

SHE WAS HEARD TO MUTTER SOMETHING ABOUT STOPPING THE BATTLE AND SAVING THE SILVER SURFER.

AGAIN THE SURFER. IS HE ALWAYS TO PLAGUE ME?

WE HAVE A VISUAL. RADARSCOPIC FIX ON THE FUGITIVE CRAFT, REVERED PROPHET.

WHY DOES THE SHIP WOBBLE SO ERRATICALLY?

I--HESITATED TO TELL YOU, BENEVOLENCE. ELYNA WAS WOUNDED.

AT THAT INSTANT, EVEN AS I HURTLED TOWARD THE FATEFUL SCENE...

WHO DARES, UNKNOWN AND UNBIDDEN, TO APPROACH MY PRESENCE?

EVERYTHING'S-- GOING DARK. I-I'M NOT AFRAID OF DEATH-- BUT--

I MUSTN'T DIE IN VAIN.

HER SHIP'S OUT OF CONTROL! SHE'S GOING TO CRASH!

AS YOU HAVE TAUGHT US, PROPHET, IT IS THE WILL OF GALAC-TUS.

OP

NO!

HE CAN'T LET HER DIE! HE CAN'T!

HEAR ME GALACTUS! HEAR THE CRY OF YOUR PROPHET! SAVE HER! ONLY YOU HAVE THE POWER!

A SHIP!

IT PLUMMETS TOWARDS EARTH!

GALACTUS DOES NOTHING, REVERED ONE! BUT LOOK! THE SURFER HAS SPIED HER!

INSIDE-- A GIRL! ELYNA!

MY COSMIC BLAST WILL FREE HER FROM THE DOOMED CRAFT!

M.

BUT BEFORE I CAN UNLEASH MY POWER TO SAVE THE GIRL...

NOOO!

I'LL BE DEFIED NO LONGER!

WHEN INSURGENCY THREATENS, LET POWER PREVAIL!

FOR GALACTUS IS POWER. AND POWER IS ALL!

I COULD HAVE SAVED HER, BUT GALACTUS STOPPED ME.

FOR A SPLIT SECOND I SAW ELYNA'S FACE-- ILLUMINATED AS IF IN PRAYER.

A PRAYER NOT FOR HERSELF, BUT FOR MANKIND.

HER EYES SEEMED TO SAY THAT I WAS EARTH'S LAST HOPE! THEY BEGGED ME-- NOT TO FAIL.

GALACTUS DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO SAVE HER! HE JUST LET HER DIE.

UNFATHOMABLE ARE THE WAYS OF DIVINITY, REVERED PROPHET.

DID ELYNA NOT SIN IN DEFYING THE WILL OF GALACTUS?

SIN?! MY SISTER WAS AS FREE OF SIN AS THE VERY AIR WE BREATHE!

IT IS **GALACTUS WHO SINNED!**

AND **I** WHO SINNED! I, WHO DARED TO DEIFY A DEVIL!

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, VIEWERS HAVE WITNESSED TELEVISED EVIDENCE OF THE SPACE GOD'S BRUTALITY AND DESTRUCTIVENESS.

PEOPLE EVERYWHERE ARE STARTING TO QUESTION, TO WONDER.

BULLETIN! WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT THE PROPHET CANDELL HAS PUBLICLY RENOUNCED GALACTUS!

M.

POLICE HAVE JUST FOUND THE BULLET-RIDDEN BODIES OF MAYOR FOLGER AND HIS AIDE. IT IS BELIEVED THEY WERE KILLED BY FOLLOWERS OF GALACTUS.

HOW COULD ANYONE DO SUCH A THING?

THOSE FANATICS THINK THEY CAN JUSTIFY ANYTHING IN THE NAME OF RELI-GION.

IF GALACTUS IS A GOD, THEN I'M TURNING ATHEIST!

HE'S SO VENGEFUL, SO DEADLY! WE'LL NEVER GET OUT FROM UNDER HIS YOKE!

WE'RE ALL TO BLAME! WE BROUGHT IT ON OURSELVES!

RELIGION IS ONE THING, MURDER IS ANOTHER. THIS IS STILL A NATION OF LAW AND JUSTICE.

WHAT CAN WE DO, MR. PRESI-DENT?

GALACTUS IS TOO POWERFUL TO BE APPRE-HENDED.

IT WOULD BE FOLLY TO EVEN THINK OF ATTACKING HIM.

IT WOULD BE COWARDICE NOT TO TRY. SUMMON THE JOINT CHIEFS... **NOW!**

WHAT ARE WE SCRAMBLIN' FOR?

WE'RE GONNA WASTE US A GOD!

YOU GOT SOME SICK SENSA-HUMOR!

THOUGH THE TASK SEEMS HOPELESS, THE MISSION IMPOSSIBLE, NOT A MAN FLINCHES, NOT A MAN WAVERS.

OFFTIMES I SUSPECT THAT THE SPARK OF DIVINITY WHICH ALL HUMANS SEEK GLOWS EVER UNNOTICED IN THEIR OWN NAKED BREASTS.

73 737

BUT IT IS NOT DIVINITY I SEEK AT THIS FATEFUL MOMENT IN TIME. IT IS JUSTICE! AND THOUGH THE QUARRY IS MIGHTY GALACTUS HIMSELF--THERE ARE SCALES TO BE BALANCED, A PRICE TO BE PAID!

YOU COULD HAVE SAVED HER, YET YOU LIFTED NOT A FINGER!

THE FEMALE IS NOT CONCERN OF MINE!

TOO LONG HAVE YOU LIVED AMONG THE IRRATIONAL HUMANS, YOU BEGIN TO THINK AS THEY DO.

THOUGH THERE ARE COUNTLESS DEATHS EACH DAY, THEY MINDLESSLY TREAT EACH AS IF IT MATTERS IN THE COSMIC SCHEME OF THINGS.

WHAT GIVES YOU CAUSE TO SAY IT DOES NOT?

IF LIFE IS THE MOST PRECIOUS GIFT OF ALL, THEN IS NOT ITS LOSS A MATTER OF MONUMENTAL CONSEQUENCE?

YOUR BLIND DISREGARD FOR OTHER LIVES FILLS MY HEART WITH BURNING RAGE!

WHY WAS SUCH AWESOME POWER GRANTED TO ONE AS MERCILESS AS YOU?

BY WHAT MAD FOLLY, FOR WHAT DREAD PURPOSE, WAS CREATED A GALACTUS?

M.

HAVE NOT PRE-DATORS EXISTED SINCE TIME'S FIRST DAWNING?

DID NOT THE SAME HAND FASHION THE HAWK AS WELL AS THE DOVE? BUT ENOUGH! I WEARY OF DISCOURSE.

WORDS ARE EMPTY. ACTION IS ALL!

THE TABLEAU IS ENDED, THE PRIZE IS MINE.

YOU HAVE CHOSEN YOUR FATE, MY HERALD THAT WAS. I MEANT YOU NO HARM, FOR GALACTUS BEARS MALICE TO NONE.

I KNOW NOT WHY YOU CHOSE TO DEFY ME, OR WHY YOU RISK DEATH SO THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE.

BUT IF SUCH IS YOUR CHOICE, SO BE IT. THE SURFER SHALL SOAR NO MORE!

M.

HIS VOICE IS QUIET, DEVOID OF EMOTION. COLD AS AN EARTHLY TOMB.

I RESIGN MYSELF TO MY FATE.

AND THEN I HEAR THEM, THE SOUND OF JET ENGINES, GUNFIRE, MISSILES SCREAMING THROUGH THE NIGHT.

I TREMBLE FOR THEM. GALACTUS CAN DECIMATE THE MIGHTIEST FORCE ON EARTH WITH LITTLE MORE THAN A SHRUG.

BUT HE DOES NOTHING. SILENT HE STANDS. MADE INVULNERABLE BY A POWER BEYOND THE KEN OF MORTAL COMPREHENSION.

WHEN FINALLY HE SPEAKS, HIS WORDS ARE FOR ME ALONE. HIS GREAT VOICE LITTLE MORE THAN A PALE WHISPER.

THEY DEIFY ME NO LONGER.

YOU HAVE TURNED THEM AGAINST THEIR GOD.

I PLANNED TO FREE THEM OF THEIR INHIBITIONS, TO REMOVE ALL MORAL RESTRAINTS.

IT WAS BUT A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY DESTROYED THEMSELVES.

BUT THEY WORSHIP ME NO MORE. THUS THE PLAN HAS FAILED.

I GRANT YOU YOUR FREEDOM, SKY RIDER. YOUR DEATH WILL AVAIL ME NAUGHT.

M.

WAIT! REMEMBER YOUR PROMISE! YOU HAVE VOWED NOT TO HARM THEM-- TO TAKE NO REPRI SAIS!

GALACTUS NEEDS NONE TO REMIND HIM OF A PLEDGE ONCE GIVEN.

I GO-- FOR THE HUNGER STILL GNAWS

BUT TIME IS ENDLESS AND THE FUTURE MINE. I SHALL YET RETURN-- AND TASTE THE TRIUMPH.

FOR MAN'S RACIAL MEMORY IS SO WOEFULLY SHORT.

M.

GALACTUS IS GONE.

THROUGHOUT THE PLANET, EVERYTHING SEEMS TO PAUSE. AS IF THE WORLD IS BREATHING A SILENT, GLOBAL SIGH OF RELIEF.

AND THEN I AM SUMMONED TO A PLENIPOTENTIARY SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

AS SECRETARY GENERAL, I SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE SOVEREIGN STATES OF THIS GREAT WORLD BODY. WE ARE HERE TO REDRESS A MONUMENTAL WRONG.

WE WERE VISITED BY **TWO** BEINGS FROM OUTER SPACE. ONE, WE MISTAKENLY TREATED AS A GOD. THE OTHER, TO OUR EVERLASTING SHAME, WE SCORNED AND VILIFIED.

BUT WE HAVE SEEN THE LIGHT. IT IS HE, WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE SILVER SURFER, WHO IS THE TRUE SAVIOR FROM THE STARS.

NO! YOU ARE WRONG! YOU MUST PLACE NO MAN ABOVE ANOTHER.

THE SPARK OF DIVINITY IS IN **ALL**--OR ELSE IN NONE!

HOW HUMBLY HE SPEAKS, HE IS THE ESSENCE OF TRUE HOLINESS.

IF NOT A GOD, HE IS SURELY A SAINT.

YOU MUST LEAD US, GUIDE US! WE SHALL BE YOUR DISCIPLES.

M

IT IS MADNESS!

THEY THIRST FOR LEADERSHIP AS A CHILD THIRSTS FOR MOTHER'S MILK.

SURELY THIS IS WHY THEY SO OFTEN FALL PREY TO TYRANTS AND DESPOTS.

WHY CANNOT THEY REALIZE THAT THE TRUEST FAITH IS FAITH IN ONESELF? WHAT HAS MADE THEM SO DESPERATE TO HAVE OTHERS SHOW THEM THE WAY?

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO TEACH THEM, THOUGH IT WILL MEAN BECOMING AN OUTCAST AGAIN!

AND YET, IT IS A SMALL ENOUGH PRICE TO PAY.

VERY WELL. I ACCEPT THE HOMAGE THAT YOU OFFER. I SHALL ADVISE YOU AND GUIDE YOU.

AND YEA, EVEN **LEAD** YOU TO THE PATH OF GLORY.

BUT FIRST YOU SHALL HEAR MY TERMS!

MY EVERY COMMAND IS TO BE OBEYED WITHOUT QUESTION. MY EVERY WHIM GRATIFIED, MY EVERY DESIRE FULFILLED.

ONE THIRD OF EACH NATION'S WEALTH SHALL BE SET ASIDE FOR MY PERSONAL USE.

I SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO ANY MAN-MADE LAW.

ALL SHALL RISE WHEN I DEIGN TO APPEAR. NONE MAY SPEAK WITHOUT MY ASSENT.

HE'S CHANGED. HE RANTS LIKE A MAD-MAN.

HE IS POWER-MAD! NO DIFFERENT THAN ANYONE ELSE!

HE MAKES GALACTUS SEEM LIKE MOTHER THERESA!

UN

YOU'VE SAID ENOUGH. I THINK YOU'D BETTER LEAVE.

GET HIM OUT BEFORE THEY RIOT!

SEND THE CREEP BACK WHERE HE CAME FROM!

LYNCH HIM! STRING UP THE WHITE-SKINNED ZOMBIE!

HANGING'S TOO GOOD FOR HIM!

TOSS HIM DOWN TO US! WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!

HE'S A LUNATIC. GET RID OF HIM!

NO! DON'T LISTEN TO HIM!

HE DOESN'T MEAN WHAT HE SAYS!

DON'T YOU SEE? HE IS DOING THIS FOR **US!** FOR OUR OWN GOOD--TO SHOW US!

DIRTY LOUSY ALIEN!

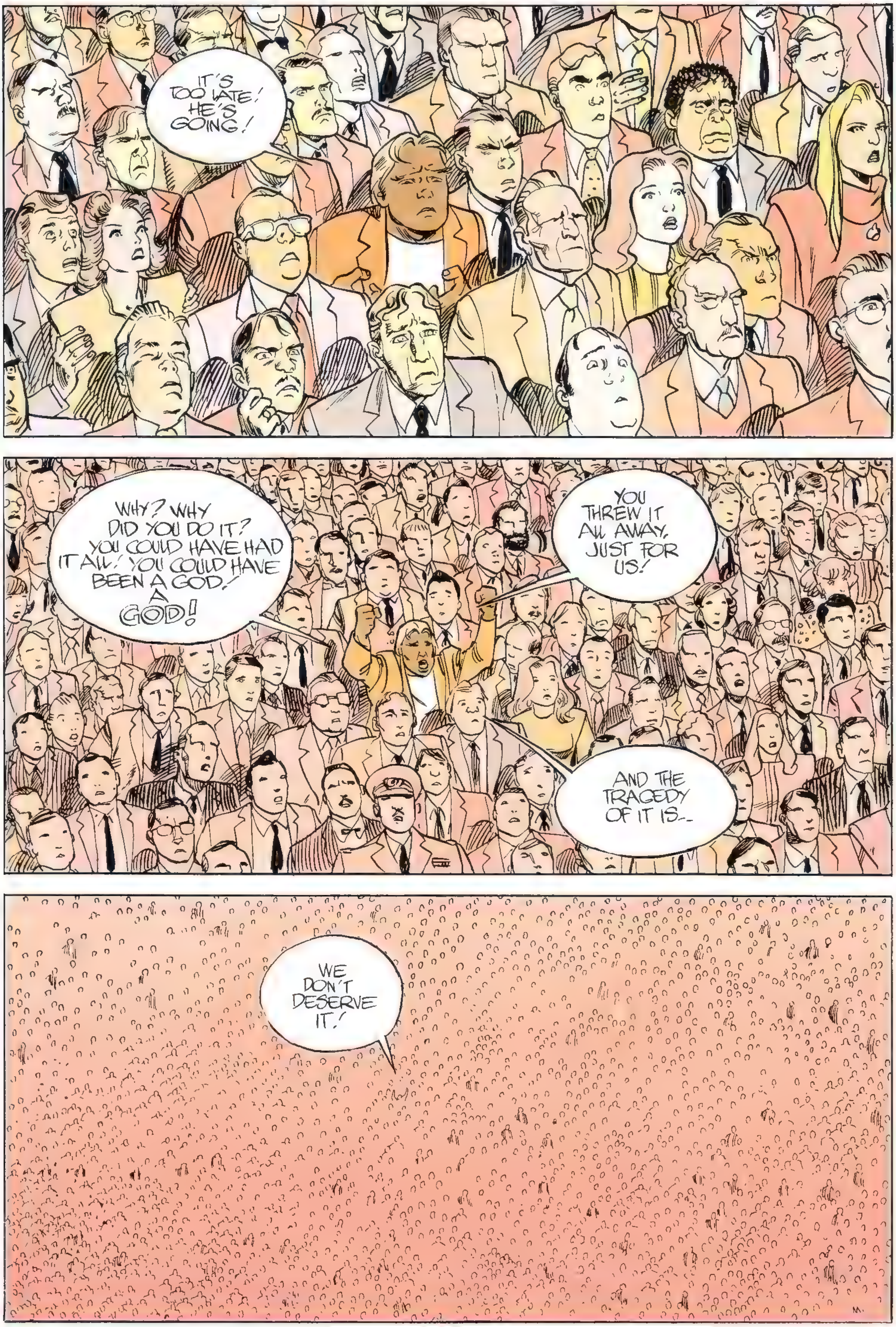
CANDEL'S CRY WILL BE LOST IN THE DIN. NO MOB HAS EVER HEEDED A LONE VOICE OF REASON.

BUT I HAD BEST LEAVE BEFORE VIOLENCE SETS IN.

TO ME, MY BOARD!

DON'T DO IT, SURFER! STAY WITH US! WE NEED YOU MORE THAN EVER.

MANKIND IS MAD! YOU'RE OUR LAST HOPE!


IT'S TOO LATE! HE'S GOING!
WHY? WHY DID YOU DO IT? YOU COULD HAVE HAD IT ALL! YOU COULD HAVE BEEN A GOD! A GOD!
YOU THREW IT ALL AWAY, JUST FOR US!
AND THE TRAGEDY OF IT IS--
WE DON'T DESERVE IT!

I RIDE MY BOARD.

IT MATTERS NOT, HOW FAR, IT MATTERS NOT HOW FAST.

I HAVE NO DESTINATION. I GO WHERE THE WINDS OF CHANCE MAY CARRY ME.

I HAVE KNOWN THE HEADY EXALTATION OF VICTORY. I HAVE KNOWN THE GNAWING PAIN OF DEFEAT.

BUT I SHALL NEVER CEASE SEARCHING FOR AN OASIS OF SANITY IN THIS DESERT OF MADNESS THAT MEN CALL EARTH.

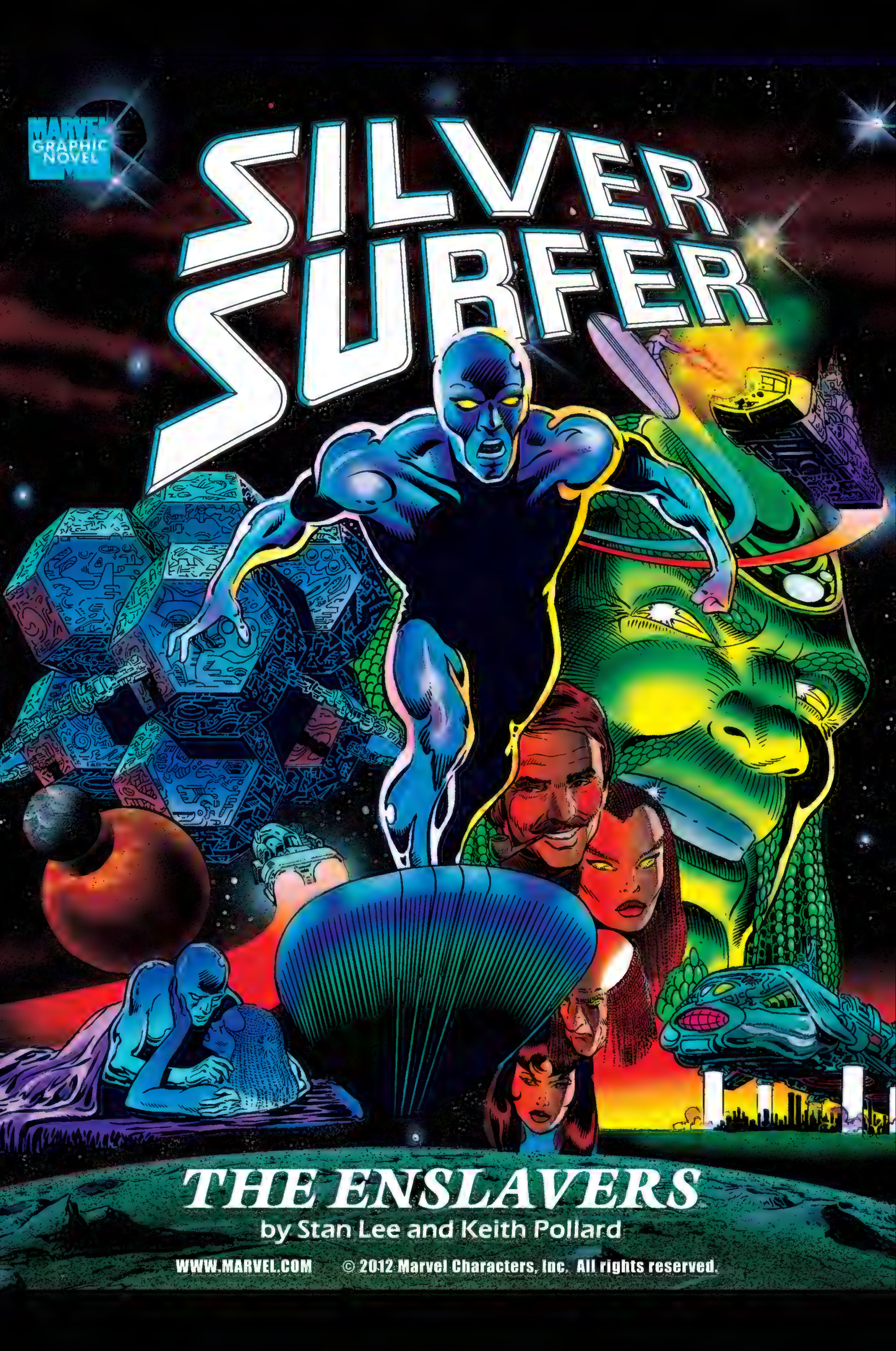
FOR THE WORST FATE OF ALL, AMIDST COUNTLESS WORLDS AND ENDLESS STARS--

-- IS TO BE FOREVER ALONE.

THE END.

MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL

SILVER SURFER

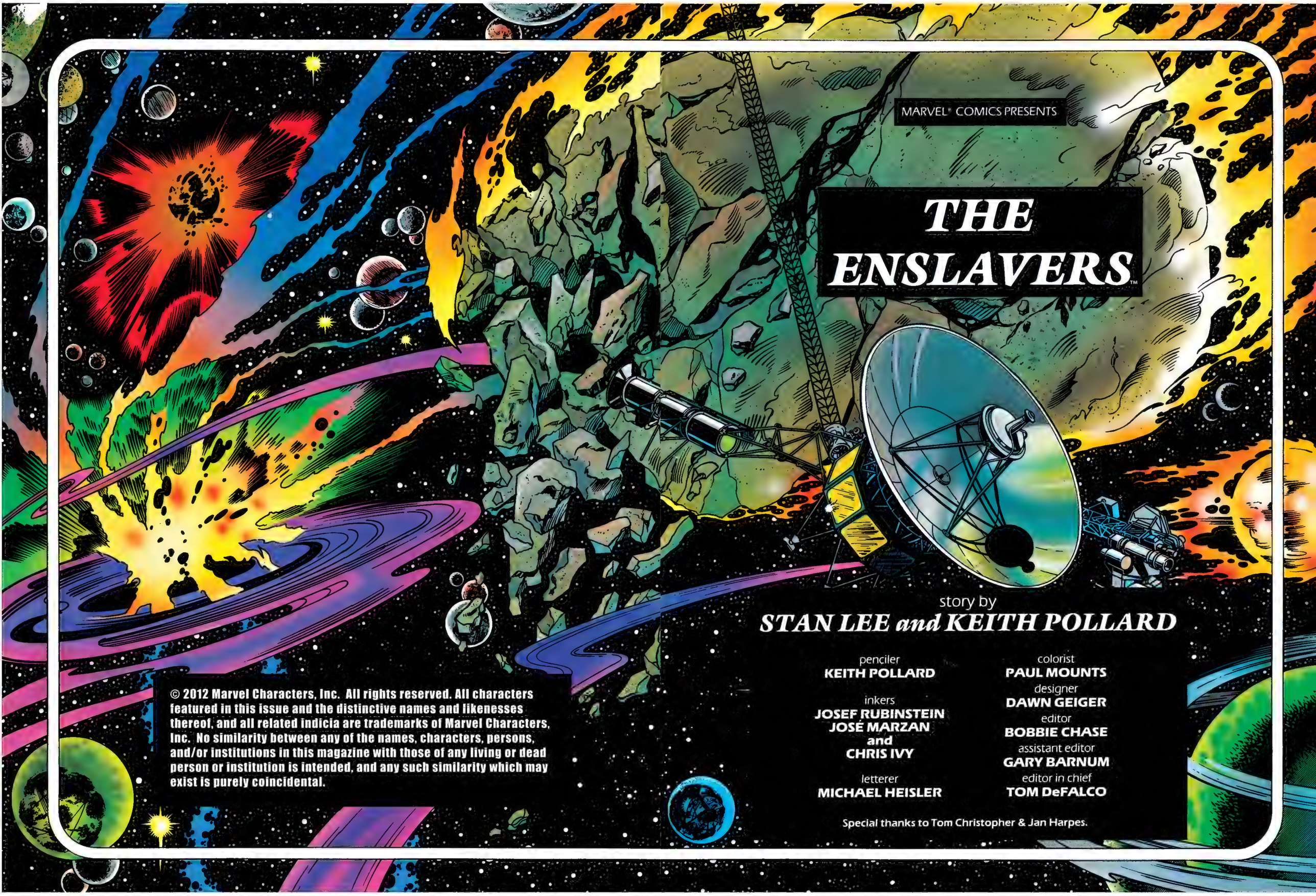


THE ENSLAVERS

by Stan Lee and Keith Pollard

WWW.MARVEL.COM © 2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.

THE ENSLAVERS


MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS
THE ENSLAVERS™
story by
STAN LEE and KEITH POLLARD
penciler
KEITH POLLARD
inkers
JOSEF RUBINSTEIN
JOSÉ MARZAN
and
CHRIS IVY
letterer
MICHAEL HEISLER
colorist
PAUL MOUNTS
designer
DAWN GEIGER
editor
BOBBIE CHASE
assistant editor
GARY BARNUM
editor in chief
TOM DeFALCO
Special thanks to Tom Christopher & Jan Harpes.
© 2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

IT PROBES THE HEAVENS

ON A JOURNEY WITHOUT END

UNTIL...

WHAT BIT OF SPACE FLOTSAM IS THIS?

VOYAGER III. A SPACE PROBE FROM EARTH.

EARTH! THE ONE PLANET THAT HAS FRUSTRATED ME EVER!

THE ONE WORLD I CANNOT DESTROY!

I HAVE PLEDGED THE SANCTITY OF THAT MEAGER PLANET TO HIM WHO WAS MY ONCE AND FORMER HERALD!

AND THE WORD OF *GALACTUS* IS FOREVER INVIOLABLE!

GO THEN, VOYAGER. YOU INTEREST ME NOT--

--FOR THE *GREAT HUNGER* IS AGAIN UPON ME!

NOT EVEN I, WITH ALL MY POWER, WITH ALL MY MIGHT, CAN FIND NOURISHMENT ENOUGH TO FULLY SUSTAIN ME!

NOT SINCE THE COMING OF THE ACCURSED *ENSLAVERS!*

TILL NOW, OUR PATHS HAVE NOT YET CROSSED.

FOR VAST AND ENDLESS ARE THE GALAXIES.

BUT, IF THE DAY SHOULD COME WHEN WE DO MEET--

THE ULTIMATE *BATTLE* WILL SURELY ENSUE!

FOR GALACTUS SHARES HIS PLANETARY PLUNDER WITH *NONE!*

BUT I SEEK NO CONFRONTATION NOW.

HUNGER HAS EBBED MY AWESOME STRENGTH.

SO I FLY TO SCAVENGE *OTHER* GALAXIES!

ANOTHER FIGURE FLIES THROUGH SPACE.

BUT THIS ONE FLIES TOWARD EARTH

AT A SPEED THAT DEFIES DESCRIPTION IN HUMAN TERMS!

HURTLING FROM THE FIERY CENTER OF A **WHITE HOLE**, HE DARES TO **TRANSWARP** TIME AND SPACE, USING HIS COSMIC SPEED TO TWIST THE LIVING FABRIC OF MATTER, EMERGING THROUGH THE AWESOME DENSITY OF A PARALLEL **BLACK HOLE**-- ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE UNIVERSE!

WRACKED WITH THE PAIN OF HIS OWN TORTURED THOUGHTS...

ONLY ONE MAN CAN HELP ME!

...HE IS OBLIVIOUS TO THE METEOR STORM WHICH SURROUNDS HIM...

ONLY ONE MAN HAS THE KNOWLEDGE, THE SKILL!

...A STORM WHICH GATHERS IN DEADLY INTENSITY...

ONLY ONE MAN CAN TRULY TELL ME--

--AM I GOING MAD?!!

WHEN THE REALIZATION FINALLY STRIKES...

IT IS TOO LATE!

HIS TRAJECTORY IS HAIRLINE ACCURATE!

THOUGH RENDERED UNCONSCIOUS BY THE BATTERING OF THE METEORS, HE REACHES HIS GOAL!

SUE! LOOK OUT!

CAREFUL, REED! IT MAY BE A TR--

NO NEED TO WORRY, DARLING!

IT'S THE SILVER SURFER!

HE'S HURT! HE NEEDS HELP!

MEANWHILE, VOYAGER III STREAKS THROUGH SPACE...

...TOWARD AN UNEXPECTED DESTINY...

TO MERELY CALL IT A STARSHIP IS LIKE CALLING A SUPERNOVA A SPARK!

TO MERELY SAY THAT IT'S HUGE IS LIKE SAYING THE BUBONIC PLAGUE WAS A NUISANCE!

PERHAPS THIS CAN PUT IT IN PERSPECTIVE: ITS SIZE WOULD DWARF THE ENTIRE PLANET EARTH!

AND IT'S DEADLIER BY FAR THAN ALL THE WEAPONS IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSE!

IT IS TO THIS MONSTROUS MONOLITH THAT VOYAGER III IS IRRESISTIBLY DRAWN!

HELD IN THE THRALL OF AN INVISIBLE TRACTOR BEAM...

'THE UNWITTING SATELLITE DRAWS CLOSER AND CLOSER...

CARRYING WITH IT THE SUPREME IRONY--

-- AN INNOCENT MESSAGE OF PEACE!

A SILENT APPROACH.

A SILENT ENTRY.

A SILENT DESCENT.

DEEPER AND DEEPER--

--UNTIL THE CAPTIVE SATELLITE REACHES ONE OF THE THOUSANDS OF LABORATORIES IN THE VASTNESS OF THE SHIP, A LABORATORY LARGER THAN THE CITY OF CHICAGO...

...A LABORATORY WHOSE ONLY PURPOSE IS THE STUDY OF CAPTIVE SPACE PROBES!

WITHIN SECONDS, THE EARTHLY MESSAGE OF PEACE IS DECIPHERED...

...THEN, THE GREAT SHIP'S LONG-RANGE SCANNERS ARE AUTOMATICALLY ACTIVATED...

...AND TRAINED UPON-- THE PLANET EARTH!

EVEN AS THE GARGANTUAN SHIP'S NUCLEAR-POWERED INSTRUMENTS ANALYZE EARTH'S MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, STUDY ITS DEFENSES, AND LOCATE ITS PARANORMAL SUPER HEROES...

WE TURN OUR ATTENTION TO N.A.S.A. HEADQUARTERS, HOUSTON.

EARL WEYGAND, ASTROPHYSICIST AND DESIGNER OF VOYAGER III.

THIS IS TO BE THE FINAL YEAR OF HIS LIFE.

WHAT'S WRONG, CARTER?

WRONG? TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!

VOYAGER III HAS *FOUND* SOMETHING!

EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL LIFE! THEY'RE BEAMING A *MESSAGE* TO US!

LOOK WHAT IT *SAYS*, SIR!

NOW THAT THEY'VE FOUND US, THEY'RE COMING TO EARTH--AS FRIENDS!

GENTLEMEN! DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS *MEANS*?!!

MEANWHILE, AT THE COUNTRY HOME OF MR. AND MRS. REED RICHARDS...

WE'VE GOT TO HELP HIM, REED.

THE BEST HELP WE CAN GIVE HIM IS TO LET HIM SLEEP.

HE'S BEEN THROUGH SOME SORT OF DEBILITATING TRAUMA. REST IS VITAL TO HIM NOW.

HE LOOKS SO VULNERABLE, SO HELPLESS LYING THERE THAT WAY.

SINCE GALACTUS TRANSFORMED HIM INTO THE COSMIC SKYRIDER THAT HE IS, THE SILVER SURFER IS PROBABLY THE MOST POWERFUL BEING IN ALL THE GALAXY!

VULNERABLE?

THERE'S STILL SOMETHING ABOUT HIM THAT BRINGS OUT THE MATERNAL INSTINCT IN ME.

LET HIM REST. WE'LL TALK TO HIM IN THE MORNING.

SEE YOU LATER, REED. THIS IS MY HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER NIGHT.

DRIVE CAREFULLY, DARLING.

I'LL WAIT UP TILL SHE RETURNS.

IT'LL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO SEE EARL WEYGAND, HE'S JOHNNY'S GUEST TONIGHT.

THE TONIGHT SHOW STARRING JOHNNY CARSON

HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE WE STUDIED ASTROPHYSICS IN COLLEGE TOGETHER.

THE SURFER SLEEPS. BUT NOT AS YOU OR I.

THE SURFER DREAMS. BUT NOT AS YOU OR I.

HIS DREAMS ARE VIOLENT DREAMS, PSYCHIC DREAMS.

THE DREAMS OF A TORTURED SOUL!

I SEE HALLOWED ZENN-LA, PLANET OF MY YOUTH, WHERE MY HEART AND MY LOVE RESIDE!

I SEE ITS PEOPLE CONQUERED, OPPRESSED, ENSLAVED! I SEE THEM TAKEN IN CHAINS--TO A PLACE OF AGONY AND DEATH!

AND 'TIS NOT GALACTUS WHO DOES THIS!

'TIS SOME POWER AS GREAT, OR--HORRIFIC AS THE THOUGHT MAY BE--EVEN GREATER!

THE INTENSITY OF THE SLEEPING MAN'S TORMENT UNLEASHES HIS POWER COSMIC!

A POWER WHICH, EVEN IN SLEEP, CAN MAKE A CONTINENT TREMBLE!

A POWER STILL GROWING, NOW OUT OF CONTROL!

COSMIC BOLTS, CAREENING THROUGH THE ROOM!

IT'S THE SURFER'S *POWER*--BEING RELEASED *UNCONTROLLABLY!*

THE ENTIRE *HOUSE* IS STARTING TO SHAKE!

IT'S BROKEN LOOSE OF ITS FOUNDATION!

IT'S RISING INTO THE *AIR!*

HIS POWER IS NULLIFYING *GRAVITY* ITSELF!

IF IT ISN'T *STOPPED*--IF IT KEEPS *SPREADING*--

IT COULD THREATEN THE ENTIRE *PLANET!*

HE'D NEVER DO THIS INTENTIONALLY!

HE MUST BE IN SOME SORT OF *COMA!*

I'VE GOT TO *REACH* HIM--*WAKE* HIM--

BEFORE IT'S--*TOO LATE!*

I *KNEW* IT! HIS POWER IS OUT OF CONTROL!

HE'S *LEVITATING* --EVEN AS HE SLEEPS!

I-I CAN'T *REACH* HIM!

THE *ENERGY* HE'S GENERATING IS LIKE A *WHIRLWIND*, HURLING ME BACK!

THE ROOM *ITSELF* IS CHANGING, WARPING OUT OF SHAPE!

HIS POWER IS ALTERING THE VERY MOLECULES OF *MATTER!*

HE'S DRIFTING *TOWARD* ME! IF I CAN *GRAB* HIM --*HOLD* HIM--!

JUST AS I THOUGHT! HE'S HAVING A *COSMIC NIGHTMARE!*

THE HORRIFIC IMAGES ARE SO *STRONG* I CAN ALMOST SENSE THEM *MYSELF!*

I'VE GOT TO *WAKEN* HIM-- NO MATTER *WHAT!*

HEAR ME, SURFER! YOU *MUST* HEAR ME!

WHILE YOU DREAM, YOUR *POWER* THREATENS US *ALL!*

WAKE, NORRIN RADD-- WHILE YOU STILL *CAN!*

THE ENERGY FLOW-- DRAINING THE *OXYGEN!* CAN'T BREATHE--!

WAKE, SURFER! IN-- THE NAME OF-- HEAVEN--

WAKE!

THAT VOICE--CRYING IN MY NIGHTMARE--

IT WAS *YOU!*

BUT, THE *ROOM*-- THE *HOUSE!* WHAT HAVE I *DONE?!!*

THE *OXYGEN!* IT'S NEARLY *GONE!*

IF HE HADN'T *AWAKENED* ME-- I'D HAVE BEEN A *MURDERER!*

LET THE POWER *COSMIC RETURN* TO MY BODY WHENCE IT CAME!

LET *GRAVITY* PREVAIL!

LET THE *MOLECULAR* INTEGRITY OF THE *STRUCTURE* ENTIRE BE *COSMICALLY RESTORED!*

SURFER! YOU'VE AWAKENED! YOUR POWER IS UNDER CONTROL!

IF I HAVE *INJURED* YOU, REED RICHARDS, I AM--

DON'T SAY IT, MY FRIEND. IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.

LATER, PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY EXHAUSTED FROM THEIR HARROWING ORDEAL, THE TWO LEGENDARY FRIENDS TAKE THE TIME TO RELAX AND COMPARE NOTES...

THESE NIGHTMARES OF YOURS. HOW LONG HAVE YOU HAD THEM?

THEY HAVE BEEN PLAGUING ME FOR *WEEKS*-- GROWING MORE TORTUROUS EACH TIME.

NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL, YOU MUST *SPEAK* OF IT.

PERHAPS IF THE TWO OF US *DISCUSS* YOUR NIGHTMARES, WE CAN FIND SOME *MEANING* IN THEM!

EACH TIME I SLEEP, THE *VOICES* COME! HAUNTED VOICES! *ANGUISHED* VOICES!

IS ONE OF THEM THE VOICE OF *SHALLA-BAL*?

HOW? HOW COULD YOU *KNOW?*

I KNOW HOW YOU *LOVE* HER! NOTHING ELSE COULD TORMENT YOU SO.

SHE *NEEDS* ME! I *KNOW* IT!

THEN WHY DON'T YOU *GO* TO HER?

I *WOULD!* I'D BRAVE THE WRATH OF *GALACTUS* HIMSELF TO BE AT HER SIDE!

TELL ME THE *REST* OF IT! WHAT'S *STOPPING* YOU?

YOU, WHO ALLOWED YOURSELF TO TAKE THE FULL BRUNT OF A SONIC SHARK MISSILE WHILE TRYING TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM ATOMIC WAR--*

SURELY YOU'D LET NOTHING NOW KEEP YOU FROM THE SIDE OF THE WOMAN YOU LOVE!

*FANTASTIC FOUR #72, AS IF YOU'D EVER FORGET!

YOUR WORDS ARE WISE, REED RICHARDS, AND STEEPED IN SOLEMN TRUTH! BUT THEY IGNORE ONE FACT--

HOW DO I FIND-- THE UNFINDABLE?

SHE'S NOT ON ZENN-LA?

ZENN-LA IS BARREN, DESERTED, DEVOID OF LIFE!

I HAVE COSMICALLY SCANNED IT A THOUSAND THOUSAND TIMES!

BUT THERE'S ONE THING YOU'VE OVERLOOKED, MY FRIEND!

AN ENTIRE RACE CAN'T VANISH WITHOUT LEAVING A CLUE!

SOMEWHERE ON THE PLANET THERE MUST BE A SIGN, A TRACE, SOMETHING YOU CAN FIND!

YOU ARE RIGHT! YOU MUST BE RIGHT! I WAS BLIND NOT TO HAVE REALIZED IT BEFORE!

THAT MUST BE THE REASON FOR MY COSMIC NIGHTMARES!

MY BELOVED IS CALLING TO ME, TELLING ME TO FLY TO FABLED ZENN-LA!

YOU HAVE OPENED MY EYES, REED RICHARDS!

I SHALL NOT FAIL HER!

THOUGH THE COSMOS ITSELF MAY BAR THE WAY, I SHALL NOT FAIL!

ONE GLISTENING FIGURE ON A SILVERY BOARD

ALONE AND WEAPONLESS

YET, NOT EVEN DEATH CAN MATCH HIS RESOLVE!

HE IS LESS TAINTED BY HUMAN VICE THAN ANY MAN I'VE KNOWN!

AND *STILL* HE'S THE MOST TORTURED SOUL OF ALL!

WELL, IT'S HARD TO FIGURE THE WORKINGS OF FATE.

I'VE A BETTER SHOT AT FATHOMING AN ASTRO-PHYSICIST LIKE EARL WEYGAND.

IT'S LIKE A *MIRACLE*, JOHNNY! WE'VE RECEIVED A *MESSAGE FROM SPACE!*

WE'LL WELCOME THE ALIENS WITH *OPEN ARMS*, OF *COURSE!*

WHY IS HE SO *TRUSTING?*

THINK OF WHAT WE'LL *LEARN!*

THINK WHAT THIS WILL MEAN TO SCIENCE, TO THE BETTERMENT OF LIFE THROUGHOUT OUR PLANET!

THINK WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF THEY'RE *HOSTILE!*

AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS IS A DUPLICATE OF THE MESSAGE WE SENT INTO SPACE. A MESSAGE OF *PEACE!*

IT ALSO TOLD SO MUCH ABOUT US -- DANGEROUS INFORMATION TO ANY WHO WISH US HARM!

AS REED RICHARDS SITS LOST IN THOUGHT...

HE FAILS TO NOTICE THE AIR VIBRATING BEHIND HIM!

TELL ME, PROFESSOR, WILL THIS BE MORE LIKE *E.T.*, OR *THE INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS?*

THEIR MESSAGE SAID THEY'RE COMING IN PEACE. WE'VE NO REASON TO DOUBT THEM.

AN ALIEN BEING, IN POWERFUL BATTLE ARMOR, SLOWLY MATERIALIZES!

NO NEED TO WORRY, JOHNNY. WHY SHOULD WE FEAR A RACE CIVILIZED ENOUGH TO HAVE MASTERED SPACE TRAVEL?

BEHIND ME--I THOUGHT I *HEARD* SOMETHING!

HEY, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE CIVILIZED TOO, BUT WE STILL HAVE TALK SHOWS!

I WAS *RIGHT!* THERE'S SOMEONE-- SOMETHING--

BUT WHO? *WHAT?*

IT IS NOT FOR YOU TO KNOW!

IT IS FOR YOU TO BE *ENSLAVED!*

I CANNOT WAIT TO MEET OUR FRIENDS FROM SPACE!

IT IS SO EASY!

WHEN YOU DO, REMEMBER-- BOOK 'EM ON *MY* SHOW FIRST!

THEY ARE *SO* WEAK!

THE TROUBLE IS, WE'VE BEEN BRAINWASHED BY COMIC BOOK TALES OF BUG-EYED MONSTERS!

I'LL BET OUR ALIEN FRIENDS DON'T EVEN KNOW THE MEANING OF WAR OR VIOLENCE!

THINK WHAT A TURNING POINT THIS WILL BE IN HUMAN HISTORY! WE'RE ABOUT TO MEET A DIFFERENT RACE, A DIFFERENT CULTURE, A TOTALLY DIFFERENT LIVING SPECIES!

AS THE CELEBRATED ASTROPHYSICIST CONTINUES TO ENTHUSE, ALIEN BEINGS IN MIGHTY BATTLE ARMOR ATTACK AND SUBDUE EVERY KNOWN SUPER HERO THROUGHOUT PLANET EARTH!

THINK WHAT THEY CAN TEACH US! THINK WHAT WE'LL LEARN OF LIFE IN ANOTHER PART OF THE UNIVERSE! THINK HOW IT WILL BROADEN OUR HORIZONS, OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE SENSE OF OUR PLACE IN THE COSMIC SCHEME OF THINGS!

I DEEPLY BELIEVE THAT THIS WILL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENT OF ALL TIME!

CALL THEM--THE ENSLAVERS!

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES THEY HAVE DONE WHAT THE MIGHTIEST FORCES ON EARTH COULD NEVER ACCOMPLISH!

THEY HAVE CAPTURED THE MOST POWERFUL SUPER HEROES OF ALL!

RELENTLESSLY, THEIR CAPTIVES ARE HERDED AND MARCHED THROUGH ENDLESS CORRIDORS OF THE LARGEST BATTLE CRUISER IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSE...

WHILE THE GREAT SHIP'S POPULATION PAYS THEM NO HEED, FOR EVENTS LIKE THIS ARE MERELY COMMONPLACE...

...TO THE MIGHTIEST LEGIONS OF ALL--

THE UNIVERSE-SPANNING, ALL-CONQUERING ENSLAVERS!

FINALLY, THE HUMILIATING TREK IS ENDED.

LET THE NEWLY ENSLAVED STAND FORTH!

STUDY ME WELL, HELPLESS ONES. STUDY THE MAJESTY AND POWER OF YOUR NOW AND FOREVER MASTER!

STUDY THE MIGHTY ENSLAVER, *MRRUNGO-MU*, FOR SUCH BE I!

IF YOU BE THE FLOWER OF EARTH'S WARRIORS, KNOW YOU THAT I BE YOUR BETTER!

WHAT PUNY AND PITIFUL SPECIMENS BE YOU!

YA WOULDN'T SPOUT OFF LIKE THAT IF WE WUZN'T TIED UP!

UNCHAIN US AND SEE HOW PUNY WE ARE!

YOU THINK IT BE YOUR SHACKLES THAT GIVE ME COURAGE?

SLAVES! REMOVE YOU NOW MY CROWN AND CLOAK!

I BE READY FOR BATTLE!

HE MELTED OUR CHAINS--JUST BY WAVIN' HIS HAND!

NOTHING THERE BE THAT MRRLINGO-MU CANNOT DO!

YOU NO LONGER BE CHAINED! BUT SLAVES BE YOU ALWAYS!

OUTTA MY WAY! BLUE-EYED BENJAMIN IS GONNA TACKLE 'IM FIRST!

FORGET IT, ROCKHEAD! HE'S GOTTA BE MINE!

COME THEN, LITTLE CREATURE. THERE BE MUCH FOR YOU TO LEARN.

BE *THAT* YOUR ATTACK, OR BE YOU PERFORMING FOR MY AMUSEMENT?

WHAT'RE YA *MADE* OF? YOU WITHSTOOD MY *CLAWS!*

I BE *MRRUNGO-MU!* THAT BE ANSWER ENOUGH!

SO YA DON'T SCRATCH EASY! BIG DEAL! LET'S SEE HOW YA DO AGAINST *REAL* POWER!

THIS BE TOO *BORING!* ATTACK ME *ALL* AND HAVE DONE WITH IT!

NO TIME HAVE I TO WASTE ON SUCH TRIFLES!

SLAVES MUST BE TAUGHT TO OBEY THEIR MASTER! AND *MRRUNGO-MU* BE MASTER OF ALL!

IF YOU BE THE STRONGEST OF HUMANS, THEN EARTH WILL BE MINE BEFORE NIGHTFALL!

HE FELLED THEM WITH A CASUAL BACKHAND BLOW!

MAYBE SO, BUT THEY AIN'T THE *HULK*!

THEY *STILL* CANNOT COMPREHEND HIS POWER!

I DREAD THE MOMENT HE *STOPS* TOYING WITH THEM!

ENOUGH! MRRUNGO-MU GROWS WEARY OF THIS SPORT!

THIS'LL *BUST* 'IM LIKE A TOY BALLOON!

FALL, BEFORE THE POWER OF THE LORD OF ATLANTIS!

YOU HAVE *SPIRIT*, EARTHLINGS -- BUT SO DOES THE SPARROW, AND STILL THE HAWK FEEDS!

NOW BE THE TIME TO *BREAK* THAT SPIRIT!

SO YOU BE *SLAVES* FOREVER!

THE MIGHTIER YOU BE, THE MORE VICTORIOUS BE I!

SEE HOW MRRUNGO-MU *ABSORBS* YOUR STRENGTH INTO HIS OWN BODY!

YOUR POWER NOW BE *MINE!*

THE MORE VICTIMS I ENSLAVE, THE *MIGHTIER* I BE!

THAT IS WHY I BE *THE ENSLAVER!* THAT IS WHY NONE CAN DEFY ME!

REMOVE THEM! WHEN THEY RECOVER, WITHOUT POWER OR HOPE, THEY SHALL SERVE ME TILL DEATH!

AS ALL WHO LIVE MUST SERVE MRRUNGO-MU!

WORLD AFTER WORLD SHALL I CONQUER--TILL ALL THE UNIVERSE BE MINE TO COMMAND!

ALL THE UNIVERSE?

PERHAPS NOT.

PERHAPS ONE TINY THREAD ON THE TAPESTRY OF LIFE WILL SOMEHOW UNRAVEL THE FABRIC OF MRRUNGO-MU'S PLAN!

ZENN-LA AT LAST!

IN THE SPACE OF A HEARTBEAT, THE SILVER SURFER TRAVERSES THE BARREN PLANET...

BUT HIS TORMENT FAR EXCEEDS HIS LIGHTNING SPEED!

NOTHING! NOT A TRACE, NOT A SHRED, NOT A CLUE!

NO SIGN IS THERE OF SHALLA-BAL!

AND YET, HER VOICE WITHIN MY DREAMS WOULD NOT DECEIVE ME!

THERE *MUST* BE A SIGN!

I DARE NOT LOSE FAITH!

MY BELOVED WOULD NOT FAIL ME!

AND THEN HE SEES IT...

THOSE DOUBLE STARS!

EXACTLY AS I SAW THEM IN MY PSYCHIC DREAM!

IT IS SURELY THE SIGN I'VE BEEN SEEKING!

EACH BEAT OF MY HEART CRIES OUT THAT IT WILL LEAD ME TO SHALLA-BAL!

AND I SHALL FOLLOW--

--THOUGH DEATH ITSELF MAY BAR THE WAY!

MEANWHILE, ABOARD THE GREATEST SHIP IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSE...

HOW GOES THE FEEDING?

ACCORDING TO YOUR COMMAND, ALL-MIGHTIEST!

THE FALLEN SLAVES PROVIDE NOURISHMENT FOR YOUR ROYAL PETS.

CONTINUE! IF THE FEEDING STOPS--YOU DIE!

HOW BE THE ENGINES?

ALL IS WELL WITH OUR POWER PLANT, ALL-MIGHTIEST!

AND SO YOU LIVE ANOTHER DAY!

BUT WHY DO YOU TREMBLE AND CRINGE IN FEAR? BE THERE *MORE* TO TELL? SPEAK, OR YOU BE FOOD FOR MY PETS!

MERCY, LORD ENSLAVER! AS ELDER ENGINEER, I MUST SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

BY YOUR LEAVE, ALL-MIGHTIEST! IT IS THIS WAY.

WHY SHOW ME MY ENGINES? DO I NOT *KNOW* THAT THEY BE GREATEST OF ALL? DO I NOT *KNOW* THEY FEED ON THE POWER OF MY SLAVES, JUST AS MY PETS FEED ON THEIR CARCASSES?

SPEAK YOU THEN THE WORDS YOU WOULD SPEAK! THE PATIENCE OF MRRUNGO-MU GROWS SHORT!

GREAT AND MERCIFUL ONE, YOUR ENGINES NEED STILL *MORE* POWER-- THE POWER THAT ONLY ANOTHER *CONQUEST* CAN PROVIDE!

THOUGH YOU HAVE ENSLAVED UNCOUNTED *BILLIONS*, MANY ARE FED TO YOUR PETS, WHILE THE OTHERS SOON DIE OF OVERWORK!

THE SUPPLY OF SLAVES MUST BE EVER REPLENISHED, LEST YOUR ENGINES *FAIL!*

WHAT *DRIVEL* BE THIS YOU SPEAK?

BE THE UNIVERSE NOT *ENDLESS?* THE SUPPLY OF SLAVES *UNLIMITED?*

TO MRRUNGO-MU, CONQUEST BE AS NATURAL AS BREATHING, AS NATURAL AS *KILLING!*

SO LONG AS THERE BE *LIVES* WITHOUT LIMIT THROUGHOUT THE *COSMOS*, SO THERE BE *SLAVES* WITHOUT LIMIT!

SLAVES TO FEED MY THIRST FOR POWER!

IN TIME, *ALL* WILL BE MINE!

THE WORD OF MRRUNGO-MU IS LAW ETERNAL!

JUST AS MY *BODY* ABSORBS THE STRENGTH OF MY CAPTIVE SLAVES...

SO DO MY *MACHINES!*

IT BE THE PERFECT SYNERGY!

NOW GO YOU TO YOUR STATION! TOO LONG HAVE YOU DAWDLED!

REMEMBER THIS WELL--

IF THE POWER STOPS, YOU DIE MOST PAINFULLY!

YOU MUST *HELP* ME! THE POWER GROWS LOW!

FEAR NOT, KALLDIN-ZO--*EARTH* SHALL SOON BE OURS!

FIVE BILLION MORE TO FEED THE POWER CELLS!

CALL HER TNNEYA, BUT GAZE NOT UPON HER, FOR SHE IS THE WOMAN OF MRRUNGO-MU!

I PRAY YOU, MY LORD, ENTER NOT MY CHAMBER.

TNNEYA IS WEARY AND THE HOUR IS LATE.

SPEAK NOT OF HOURS TO ME! BE I NOT LORD OF ALL?

DOES NOT TIME ITSELF BEND TO THE WISHES OF MRRUNGO-MU?

AND THIS DO I WISH TONIGHT!

YOUR LIPS BE COLD! YOU DARE DENY YOUR LORD?

I WILL NOT BE A CHATTEL!

CHATTEL? YOU WHO BE HONORED ABOVE ALL OTHERS?

YOU WHO BE THE CHOSEN OF THE ALL-MIGHTIEST?

LORD, NOT EVEN *YOU* CAN COMMAND A HEART TO LOVE!

ANGER ME *NOT*, TNNEYA! I, WHO LAVISH UPON YOU THE TREASURES OF THE WORLD, CAN AS EASILY *DESTROY* YOU WITH A SHRUG!

PLANETS HAVE BEEN SHATTERED BATTLING OVER TREASURES--

TREASURES FAR LESS VALUABLE THAN THOSE I GIVE TO YOU!

A PRINCESS BORN CANNOT BE BOUGHT WITH BAUBLES!

WOMEN THERE BE WHO WOULD EAGERLY *DIE* IF I BUT NOD MY HEAD!

YET *YOU*, WHOM I DESIRE *MOST*, EVER REJECT ME!

KNOW YOU NOT THAT I BE MIGHTIEST OF ALL?

MIGHT? WHAT CARE I FOR MIGHT?

I AM WOMAN! I SEEK LOVE, TENDERNESS, NOT BRUTALITY AND LUST!

NONE SPEAKS SO TO MRRUNGO-MU!

WHAT CARE I FOR TENDERNESS?

I BE *LORD ENSLAVER!* I DO NOT ASK, I TAKE! I DO NOT LOVE, I *CONQUER!*

I SHALL RETURN!

AND WHEN I DO, YOU WILL BID ME *WELCOME!*

LATER...

PREPARE MY PRIVATE YACHT.

BUT, LADY TNNEYA--

YOU HAVE NO CLEARANCE!

SHALL I TELL THE LORD ENSLAVER THAT YOU REFUSED MY ORDER?

THE SHIP IS YOURS!

AN UNAUTHORIZED DEPARTURE!

MRRUNGO-MU MUST BE INFORMED!

BRING THIS MESSAGE TO THE ALL-MIGHTIEST!

THEY ARE THE FAIREST IN ALL THE GALAXIES, AND YET TNNEYA HAUNTS MY MIND.

BUT WHO BE SHE WHO DOES NOT DANCE?

HER NAME, LORD, IS SHALLA-BAL, A CAPTIVE FROM ZENN-LA.

HER VISAGE PLEASES ME.

WHY STAND YOU SO SILENT, SO LACKING IN SPIRIT?

LOOK YOU UPON YOUR LORD!

I COMMAND YOU TO SMILE! DISOBEY AND YOU DIE!
YOU CANNOT INTERRUPT HIM NOW!
BUT I BRING A MESSAGE OF GREAT IMPORT!
YOU HAVE SPIRIT! YOU FEAR ME NOT! BUT WE MUST *CRUSH* THAT SPIRIT!
ALL-HIGHEST, I BRING TIDINGS...
IF THIS BE NOT URGENT, YOU'LL *PAY* FOR YOUR INTRUSION!
THE LADY TNNEYA HAS *FLED* IN HER PRIVATE YACHT!
SLAY THE FLIGHT MASTER! *SLAY* HIM WHO BROUGHT THE NEWS!
DISMISS THE WENCH. TIME ENOUGH FOR HER LATER.
DISPATCH MY PERSONAL CRUISER! TNNEYA MUST BE FOUND!
YOUR WORD IS THE SPOKEN LAW!
BUT HEED YOU *THIS!* IF A HAIR OF HER HEAD BE HARMED, ALL ON THE CRUISER SHALL *DIE!*
I HEAR AND OBEY, ALL-HIGHEST!
"IN THE NAME OF MRRLUNGO-MU, FIND LADY TNNEYA!"

CAPTAIN, WHY DO WE PURSUE TNNEYA'S YACHT?

OUR MISSILES CAN FIND HER AND BLAST HER FROM HERE!

SHE MUST BE CAPTURED *ALIVE!*

SHOULD ANY HARM BEFALL HER, WE ARE ALL AS GOOD AS DEAD!

SET IONIC TRACKERS! STAR SPEED ALL ENGINES!

WE'LL REACH HER IN MINUTES!

I KNOW IT WAS FUTILE TO FLEE!

AND YET, I HAD NO CHOICE.

THERE'S NO PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE TO HIDE FROM MRRUNGO-MU!

OR *DID* I?

MRRUNGO-MU MAY CONQUER MY BODY--BUT NEVER MY HEART!

REMEMBER, NO HARM MUST COME TO HER!

I KNOW HE LOVES ME--IN HIS OWN WAY.

JUST AS HE LOVES WEALTH, AND POWER, AND CONQUEST!

BUT I AM *NOT* A PLANET TO BE PILLAGED AND WON!

THE SHIP--IT'S *SHAKING!*

IT'S *OUT OF CONTROL*--CAUGHT IN A *DOCKING BEAM!*

GENTLY! GENTLY! SHE MUST REMAIN UNSCATHED!

WHO *DARES* HAVE *SPORT* WITH THE LADY TNNEYA?!!

'TIS NO SPORT, MY LADY!

I DO. BUT OBEY THE COMMAND OF THE ALL-MIGHTIEST!

MRRUNGO-MU WOULD HAVE YOU BACK!

HIS WORD IS SPOKEN LAW!

NEVER! I WOULD *DIE* FIRST!

THE DESPERATE FUGITIVE FIRES HER BETA-BEAM RAYS--

BUT CAN A PEA-SHOOTER STOP A DREADNOUGHT?

PERHAPS IT CAN-- IF ANOTHER PLAYER ENTERS THE GAME!

IT TAKES BUT A MICROSECOND FOR THE SILVER SURFER TO APPRAISE THE SITUATION!

ONE LONE FEMALE, THE PREY OF AN ARMED SPACE CRUISER!

AND LESS TIME THAN THAT TO STREAK TO THE FRAY!

I KNOW NOT THE WHY OR WHEREFORE--

BUT NO LONGER NEED SHE FIGHT ALONE!

IT'S HOPELESS! MY BETA-RAYS HAVE NO EFFECT!

BUT--WHAT IS *THIS*? A LONE MAN--ON A FLYING BOARD!

HIS *SPEED* IS INCALCULABLE!

PERHAPS *THIS* IS WHY MY DREAMS LED ME TO FOLLOW THE DOUBLE STAR!

WHO CAN FATHOM THE INSCRUTABLE WAYS OF FATE?

THERE! THE TRACTOR BEAM IS SHATTERED! THE FEMALE IS *FREE!*

NEXT, A COSMICALLY INDUCED HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE OF THE SILVER SURFER APPEARS IN THE DREADNOUGHT'S COMMAND CHAMBER...

YOU, WHO WOULD ATTACK A LONE, HELPLESS WOMAN, ARE UNFIT TO WEAR *WARRIOR'S* GARB!

WHO *DARES* INTERFERE WITH A SHIP IN THE SERVICE OF THE *ALL-MIGHTIEST!*

DESTROY HIM!

BUT, HOW DO YOU DESTROY THAT WHICH YOU CANNOT CATCH, YOU CANNOT REACH--

--THAT WHICH YOU CAN BARELY **SEE** BECAUSE OF ITS AWESOME, INDESCRIBABLE **SPEED**?!!

THE GREAT SHIP'S WEAPONS SPEW DEATH AND DESTRUCTION FOR A THOUSAND MILES IN EACH DIRECTION...

BUT THE SURFER IS UNSCATHED!

TNNEYA IS NOT SO FORTUNATE!

OHHHH...

THE GIRL'S SHIP --STRUCK BY CANNONADING DEBRIS!

LET THE BATTLE NOW **CEASE**!

THE SURFER UNLEASHES A TITANICALLY HARNESSED, FEARSOMELY FOCUSED **COSMIC BLAST**! AND THEN...

THE GREAT SHIP'S CONTROL AND WEAPONS SYSTEMS ARE TOTALLY IONIZED!

THE ONCE-MIGHTY DREADNOUGHT IS A USELESS SHARD OF SPACE DEBRIS!

AGAIN, THE COSMIC PROJECTION OF THE SILVER SURFER APPEARS...

YOUR SHIP'S POWER WILL RETURN...

BUT NOT TILL THE FEMALE IS SAFELY GONE!

I MUST GO TO HER. SHE IS ALONE, AND HELPLESS.

THEY DESTROYED THEIR OWN SHIP--AND THEMSELVES WITH IT!

WE HAVE *FAILED!* WE WILL INCUR THE *WRATH* OF THE ALL-MIGHTIEST!

THERE IS BUT *ONE* WAY OUT--

THEY PREFERRED *DEATH* TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR FAILURE!

WHO--OR *WHAT*--COULD HAVE INSTILLED SUCH TERROR IN THEIR BREASTS?

THERE IS MUCH *AMISS* HERE!

WHY WOULD SO POWERFUL A CRUISER PURSUE SO HUMBLE A PREY?

I MUST SEEK THE ANSWER!

AS I SURMISED— ONE LONE FEMALE OCCUPANT!

SHE IS INJURED--BUT NOT FATALLY.

HER SHIP, THOUGH SMALL, IS MOST LUXURIOUS!

THIS IS NO ORDINARY VICTIM OF A CASUAL SPACE PIRACY!

AND HER RAIMENT, THE LUSTROUS GARB OF ROYALTY!

HER EYES FLICKER. SHE IS REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS.

YOU ARE SAFE NOW.

PERHAPS I DO NOT *WISH* TO BE SAFE!

NEVER HAVE I KNOWN A MAN LIKE YOU!

WHAT--IS HAPPENING-- TO ME?

I HAVE HEARD YOUR EXPLOITS TOLD IN WHISPERS, BUT THOUGHT THEY WERE MERELY LEGEND.

DO NOT RESIST IT, SILVER SURFER!

AT BIRTH, I *TOO* WAS BLESSED WITH A CERTAIN POWER! THE POWER TO MAKE MEN SEE IN *ME*-- THE ONE THEY LOVE THE MOST!

IT CANNOT *BE!* AND YET, AND YET--

SHALLA-BAL! YOU ARE MY BELOVED *SHALLA-BAL!*

OF COURSE I AM! I AM THE ONE YOU LOVE!

THE DREAM WAS *REAL!* I HAVE FOUND YOU AT LAST!

IN TRUTH, WE HAVE FOUND EACH OTHER!

IF ONLY LIFE WERE LIKE A COMIC BOOK! SEE HOW EASILY WE SHIFT OUR SCENE!

CENTRAL PARK IN NEW YORK CITY...

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MR. EARL WEYGAND, THE OFFICIAL CHAIRMAN OF TODAY'S HISTORIC EVENT!

THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT! WITHIN MINUTES, HUMANITY WILL HAVE ITS FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH A RACE FROM BEYOND THE STARS!

UNLIKE ILL-CONSIDERED MOVIES AND SCIENCE-FICTION STORIES, *THIS* ENCOUNTER WILL BE PEACEFUL, CIVILIZED, AND WILL HERALD THE DAWNING OF A GREAT NEW AGE!

abc

OUR FRIENDS FROM THE STARS ARE DUE HERE AT ANY--

LOOK! UP THERE! IT'S *THEM!*

THEIR SHIP'S *SO SMALL*-- JUST A FLY SPECK!

NO! IT'S GETTING *BIGGER!*

WE DIDN'T REALIZE HOW FAR AWAY IT WAS!

LOOK AT THE SIZE OF IT *NOW!*

IT'S-- BLANKETING THE ENTIRE *CITY!*

IT'S BLOTTED OUT THE *SKY!* IT LOOKS BIG ENOUGH TO HOLD THE *WHOLE HUMAN RACE!*

SUSPENDED BY FORCE BEAMS, EACH MORE THAN A MILE IN DIAMETER, THE MONSTROUS SHIP HOVERS SILENTLY, OMINOUSLY...

HOW DO WE *REACH* THEM? WHO DO WE *TALK* TO?

I'VE GOT A WELCOMING SPEECH ALL PREPARED, BUT --WHERE *ARE* THEY?

LISTEN! THE SOUND OF AN *ENGINE!*

THAT NOISE--IT'S COMING FROM RIGHT *ABOVE* US!

PERHAPS WE SHOULD *LEAVE*, MR. PRESIDENT! JUST IN CASE!

AND GO *WHERE?* THERE'S NO PLACE TO RUN!

DO YOU *HEAR* IT? A GREAT GUSH OF *WIND*-- LIKE A GIGANTIC *VACUUM!*

SOMETHING'S *OPENING* UP THERE!

IT'S PULLING US *UP*--RIGHT INTO THE SHIP!

IT'S TOO *STRONG* TO RESIST!

NO ONE ESCAPES! THE VACUUM FORCE IS IRRESISTIBLE!

ONLY **HUMANS** ARE AFFECTED! NO ANIMALS, NO OBJECTS, NOTHING BUT **PEOPLE!**

THEY'RE SUCKED OUT OF WINDOWS, SUBWAYS, AUTOS! THERE IS REFUGE FOR **NONE!**

ONCE WITHIN THE GREAT SHIP, THEY'RE HERDED LIKE CATTLE...

...AND PLACED INSIDE INDIVIDUAL LIFE-SUPPORTING CAPSULES...

...WHICH ARE STORED IN GIGANTIC HOLDING CHAMBERS, TO BE PRESERVED UNTIL NEEDED!

BUT NEW YORK IS NOT ALONE! THROUGHOUT THE NATION, THROUGHOUT THE GLOBE, SIMILAR SHIPS HOVER OVER THE POPULATION CENTERS OF EARTH!

FOR EACH IS BUT A "GATHERING AND STORAGE" VESSEL. DESPITE THEIR GARGANTUAN SIZE, THEY PALE IN COMPARISON TO MRRUNGO-MU'S MOTHER SHIP, WHOSE SHADOW CAN PLUNGE AN ENTIRE PLANET INTO DARKNESS!

THE "GATHERING" CONTINUES UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE AND BALEFUL SCRUTINY OF THE LORD ENSLAVER!

MEANWHILE...

WHY DO YOU TOSS IN YOUR SLEEP, BELOVED?

WHY DO YOU LOOK SO TROUBLED, WHEN ALL SHOULD BE BLISS?

HAVE YOU NOT FOUND HAPPINESS IN THE ARMS OF SHALLA-BAL?

I DO NOT KNOW. THERE IS SOMETHING HERE *AMISS!*

THE DREAMS! THEY HAUNT ME STILL!

DO NOT BE DISTRAUGHT, BELOVED. I SHALL SOOTHE AND COMFORT YOU.

YOU HAVE THE VOICE AND VISAGE OF SHALLA-BAL, AND YET--

YOU ARE *NOT* MY BELOVED!

WHAT MADNESS DO YOU SPEAK? CANNOT YOU TRUST YOUR VERY SENSES?

MY EYES AND EARS CAN BE DECEIVED...

BUT NOT MY *HEART!*

I KNOW NOT WHAT SPELL YOU MAY HAVE CAST! YOU HAVE HER ASPECT AND HER SEEMING--

BUT YOU ARE NOT SHALLA-BAL!

BUT CAN SHE EQUAL MY BEAUTY, MY WARMTH, MY PASSION--?

LOVE IS NEITHER CONTEST NOR COMPETITION!

TO ME, SHE IS AND SHALL EVER BE THE FAIREST OF THE FAIR!

BUT THE TIME FOR TALK IS PAST!

NEVER WOULD SHALLA-BAL LET ME DALLY WHILE GREAT *EVIL* IS ABROAD!

WHAT IS THE EVIL OF WHICH YOU SPEAK?

HIDDEN OUT THERE, IN THE VASTNESS OF SPACE, SOME DIABOLICAL POWER HAS *DECIMATED* MY PLANET AND STOLEN ITS PEOPLE!

I CAN NEVER REST OR KNOW THE BLESSING OF PEACE, UNTIL THAT *MOST* HEINOUS ACT HAS BEEN *AVENGED* AND I LEARN THE FATE OF SHALLA-BAL!

I HAVE ONLY KNOWN *ONE* OTHER MAN WHO IS YOUR EQUAL IN SPIRIT AND IN THE STRENGTH OF HIS LOVE!

WHAT A PITY HE MUST DESTROY YOU!

YOUR WORDS ARE A RIDDLE! OF WHOM DO YOU SPEAK?

MRRUNGO-MU, ALL-HIGHEST OVERLORD OF THE ENSLAVERS!

IT IS *HE* WHO HAS DEPOPULATED YOUR PLANET!

WHERE DO I *FIND* HIM?

ANSWER ME! I *HAVE* TO KNOW!

BUT YOU WOULD GO TO YOUR *DEATH!* ENTIRE *GALAXIES* HAVE FALLEN BEFORE HIS MIGHT!

YOU MUST *BELIEVE* ME! I KNOW THE *POWER* OF MRRUNGO-MU!

HOW? HOW DO YOU KNOW?

BECAUSE I AM *TNNEYA*, MOST FAVORED AND FIRST CHOSEN OF HIS ROYAL SERAGLIO!

I WAS SEEKING TO *ESCAPE* HIM WHEN YOU CAME TO MY AID.

HE HAS KEPT YOU AN UNWILLING PRISONER?

NO! *I* KEPT MYSELF A PRISONER! FOR, THOUGH I DESPISE WHAT HE STANDS FOR, MAY THE GODS FORGIVE ME, I LOVE HIM STILL!

WITH THIS KISS I GIVE YOU FRIENDSHIP! I CAN NEVER GIVE YOU MORE!

NOW SHOW ME WHERE I MAY FIND YOUR MRRUNGO-MU!

IT WILL MEAN YOUR DEATH!

SHOW ME!

THERE! ON THAT DISTANT QUADRANT OF THIS SOLAR MAP!

THEN--HE APPROACHES *PLANET EARTH!*

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?* WHY HAVE WE LEFT MY SPACE YACHT?

NO TIME HAVE WE FOR MECHANICAL TRANSPORT!

BY MY POWER COSMIC, THE ENSLAVER MUST BE *STOPPED!*

AS THE SURFER AND LADY TNNEYA STREAK TOWARDS EARTH...

BY YOUR LEAVE, GREAT AND MERCIFUL ONE, THIS IS THE EARTHLING YOU WISHED TO SEE.

YOU BE *WEYGAND*, WHOSE MESSAGE LED ME TO YOUR PLANET!

I-- NEVER DREAMED-- WHAT I WAS DOING!

I BE *GRATEFUL*, INSIGNIFICANT ONE! NEVER BEFORE HAS A VICTIM PLANET *INVITED* MRRUNGO-MU TO COME AND ENSLAVE IT!

I THOUGHT-- IT WOULD BE A GREAT DAY FOR MANKIND! TWO ALIEN RACES TRADING KNOWLEDGE, FRIENDSHIP...

YOU BE *RIGHT!* YOU GAVE ME KNOWLEDGE OF ANOTHER PLANET TO ENSLAVE! SO I GIVE YOU FRIENDSHIP!

I GIVE YOU ONE EARTH WEEK OF FREEDOM--

--BEFORE YOU JOIN THE OTHER SLAVES!

WHAT *HAPPENS* --TO YOUR SLAVES?

BEFORE MRRUNGO-MU CAN REPLY...

ALL-HIGHEST! ALL-MIGHTIEST! I BRING YOU URGENT *NEWS!*

HE WHO IS CALLED THE *SILVER SURFER* HAS BEEN SIGHTED FLYING THIS WAY!

AND WITH HIM COMES--

NO MATTER! HE BE FORMER HERALD TO *GALACTUS!*

LONG HAVE I WONDERED IF GALACTUS'S POWER BE A MATCH FOR *MINE!*

IF I CAN SLAY THE SURFER *QUICKLY,* THAT MAY GIVE ME A CLUE!

SEND YOU A *LASER BEACON* TO GUIDE HIM HERE!

FOR IT BE *GALACTUS* THAT GAVE HIM HIS POWER!

THE ALL-HIGHEST'S WORD IS ETERNAL LAW!

THERE IT *IS* --THE MOTHER SHIP OF MRRLINGO-MU!

NEVER HAVE I SEEN ITS LIKE!

IT DWARFS THE PLANET EARTH ITSELF!

NOW DO YOU SEE WHY YOU MUST TURN BACK?

NO! NOW I SEE WHY I MUST NOT *FAIL!*

A *LASER BEACON!* HE KNOWS YOU'RE COMING!

IT IS TO GUIDE YOU TO YOUR DEATH!

NO MATTER! I SHALL FOLLOW!

AS PRECIOUS AS LIFE MAY BE, *COWARDICE* IS TOO BIG A PRICE TO PAY!

I MUST FOLLOW THE BEACON!

BUT WHAT OF YOU? SHALL I FIRST TAKE YOU TO A SAFE HIDING PLACE?

NO ONE CAN HIDE FROM MRRUNGO-MU!

EVEN AS YOU, I SHALL PLAY THE GAME TO THE VERY END!

ALL IS DESERTED! THERE IS NO SIGN OF LIFE!

WHENCE DOES THE ENSLAVER DERIVE SUCH POWER?

FROM THE RACES HE ENSLAVES! THEIR LIFE FORCES ARE THE FUEL HE FEEDS UPON!

LIKE SOME GREAT GALACTIC VAMPIRE!

I DREAD THE DAY HE AND GALACTUS MIGHT MEET!

IF THEY WERE TO EVER JOIN FORCES--!

HE MUST BE DESTROYED BEFORE SUCH A TIME!

THE LASER BEACON IS GONE! WE HAVE REACHED MRRUNGO-MU!

SO YOU HAVE, SPACE RIDER! BUT I SEE YOU BE NOT ALONE!

TNNEYA! I KNEW YOU WOULD RETURN!
COME YOU FORTH AND BEG FORGIVENESS.
I BEG NOT FOR MYSELF BUT FOR THE SILVER SURFER! SPARE HIS LIFE AND I'LL BE FOREVER YOURS!
THAT GIRL-- DAZED AND BEREFT OF SPIRIT! IT CANNOT BE-- BUT, IT IS-- IT *IS*!
DON'T YOU *KNOW* ME-- SHALLA-BAL?!!

THOUGH NEARLY DRAINED OF FREE WILL AND EMOTION BY THE LORD ENSLAVER, STILL THE SURFER'S CRY STRIKES A CHORD IN THE HEART OF HIS BELOVED...
NORRIN RADD? IS THAT YOU?
WHO, OR WHAT, IS NORRIN RADD?
IT WAS MY *NAME*, ON THE PLANET ZENN-LA -- BEFORE THE COMING OF GALACTUS!
RELEASE HER, ENSLAVER! UNSHACKLE HER SPIRIT! LET HER BE *FREE*!
I BE *MRRUNGO-MU*! COMMANDS BE MINE TO *GIVE*, NOT TAKE!

UNARMED! UNCLOTHED! DEFENSELESS! AND HE DARES CHALLENGE THE ALL-MIGHTIEST!
OH, WHAT EXQUISITE *TORTURE* THE LORD ENSLAVER WILL FOR HIM DEVISE!

WITHIN SECONDS, THE LAUGHTER TURNS TO AWE AS THE SURFER'S *POWER COSMIC* CREATES A BLINDING, CRACKLING *AURA* AROUND HIM...

UNCLOTHED I MAY BE!

BUT UNARMED AND DEFENSELESS-- NEVER!

TO ME, MY BOARD!

I KNOW NOT IF MRRUNGO-MU'S GUARDS ARE ROBOT OR HUMAN--

BUT *NEITHER* WILL KEEP ME FROM SHALLA-BAL!

SUDDENLY, WITH THE MEREST GESTURE, THE LORD ENSLAVER STOPS THE BATTLE!

A *FORCE FIELD!* WHENCE DID IT COME?

ENOUGH! I BE NO LONGER AMUSED!

IF BATTLE YOU SEEK, SO BE IT!

YOU AND I, TO THE DEATH! HOW SAY YOU, SKY RIDER?

HE, WITH POWER ENOUGH TO CHALLENGE GALACTUS HIMSELF, DOES BUT TOY WITH ME!

YET, I DARE NOT REFUSE!

TAKE *FLIGHT*, BELOVED! HIS IS THE POWER OF A THOUSAND WORLDS!

IF HE WERE A MASTODON AND I BUT A FLEA, *STILL* WOULD I FIGHT!

THEN I HAVE FOUND MY NORRIN RADD --ONLY TO LOSE HIM AGAIN!

COURAGE, MY LOVED ONE!

THAT IS THE SCIENTIST, EARL WEYGAND! HE STANDS APART, FAVORED BY MRRUNGO-MU!

IF HE IS STILL LOYAL TO EARTH-- I MAY YET PERSEVERE!

IF, WHILE I FIGHT, SOMEONE COULD *DESTROY* THOSE PENS--!

TNNEYA HAS SAID THE LORD ENSLAVER DERIVES HIS POWER FROM THE BILLIONS OF CAPTIVES IN HIS HOLDING PENS!

PREPARE TO SEE HIM DIE!

YOUR MOMENT OF MEDITATION WILL AVAIL YOU NAUGHT!

HE THINKS I PSYCH MYSELF FOR BATTLE!

HE MUST NOT SUSPECT MY TRUE PURPOSE!

ALL OF MY THOUGHTS MUST BE AIMED AT *WEYGAND!*

MAY THE POWER COSMIC NOT FAIL ME NOW!

CLEAR THE HALL!

NO MATTER HOW IT WEAKENS ME, I MUST CHANNEL HALF MY POWER TO HIM!

THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO ESTABLISH A COSMIC LINK BETWEEN US!

IT IS DONE! AS HE NOW SHARES MY POWER, SO MUST HE SHARE MY PLAN!

IN MY HEAD-- I SEEM TO HEAR ANOTHER'S THOUGHTS!

EVERYONE OUT! THE ALL-MIGHTIEST HAS SO DECREED!

I SUDDENLY KNOW HOW TO DEFEAT THE ENSLAVERS!

AND SOMEHOW-- I FEEL I HAVE THE POWER TO DO IT!

BE BRAVE, SHALLA-BAL! ONE OF US WILL LOSE HER MAN BEFORE THIS NIGHT IS ENDED!

YOU ARE STRONG, MRRLUNGO-MU, BUT STRENGTH WITHOUT CONSCIENCE IS LIKE DAY WITHOUT LIGHT!

SPARE ME YOUR HOMILIES, SKY-RIDER! STRENGTH BE POWER --AND POWER BE ALL!

BEFORE I BE DONE, THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE WILL GROVEL BEFORE ME!

STRIKE, DOOMED ONE! I CEDE YOU THE RIGHT OF FIRST ATTACK!

THOUGH BEREFT OF HALF HIS COSMIC POWER, THE SURFER UNLEASHES A BLAST THAT COULD SHATTER A DOZEN FORT KNOXES!

BUT MRRUNGO-MU CALMLY STANDS HIS GROUND, AS THOUGH ABSORBING AND FEEDING ON EACH POUNDING BOLT!

SO THIS BE THE POWER OF THE MUCH-VAUNTED SILVER SURFER!

NOW IT IS *MY* TURN!

HERE BE A TOKEN FROM BUT *ONE* OF MY FINGERS!

SO INCREDIBLY POTENT IS THE LORD ENSLAVER'S BLAST THAT IT TEARS THE ROOF OFF THE U.N. BUILDING'S GREAT ASSEMBLY HALL!

REMEMBER, THAT BE FROM JUST MY *LITTLEST* FINGER!

IT BE *GALACTUS* WHO GAVE YOU YOUR POWER!

BUT YOUR POWER BE *NOTHING* AGAINST MINE!

AT LAST I KNOW! I BE MIGHTIER THAN GALACTUS!

THE MORE HE GLOATS, THE MORE TIME IT WILL GIVE ME TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE!

WHILST THE THRONGS ARE HERDED TO SAFETY, WEYGAND SENSES HIS NEWFOUND POWER, BUT KNOWS NOT WHENCE IT COMES!

WHAT'S *HAPPENING* TO ME? WHY DO I FEEL THIS SUDDEN SURGE OF FANTASTIC *STRENGTH*, THIS URGE TO REACH THE ENSLAVERS' SHIP?

THE LINK IS FORGED! THE CHANNEL IS OPEN! THE MOMENT IS *NOW*!

WEYGAND! ONLY *YOU* CAN SAVE THE EARTH! I HAVE BEQUEATHED YOU *HALF MY POWER!*

SEIZE YOU THE MOMENT! EVEN AS I, YOU *TOO* ARE NOW THE *SILVER SURFER!* YOUR WILL IS *MINE!*

NO OTHER WAY IS THERE! WHILST I BATTLE MRRUNGO-MU, *ANOTHER* SUCH AS I MUST RIDE THE SPACEWAYS TO HIS MOTHER SHIP AND *DESTROY* ITS POWER SOURCE!

FATE HAS CHOSEN *YOU*, EARL WEYGAND! YOU MUST PROVE WORTHY!

AS YOU FEEL THE *POWER COSMIC* SURGE WITHIN, YOU *KNOW* MY WORDS ARE TRUE!

NOT FOR NOTHING WAS WEYGAND ONE OF EARTH'S MOST BRILLIANT MINDS. INSTANTLY, HE GRASPS THE SITUATION, AND THEN...

I WILL NOT FAIL!

BY GIVING ME HALF HIS POWER, THE SURFER FACES CERTAIN *DEATH* AT THE HANDS OF MRRUNGO-MU!

IF *HE'D* DO THAT FOR MANKIND, HOW CAN *I* DO LESS?

I THANK GOD FOR THIS CHANCE TO *ATONE* FOR BRINGING THE ENSLAVERS TO EARTH!

THE *SILVER SURFER* APPROACHES!

THE COWARD MUST BE *FLEEING* FROM THE POWER OF MRRUNGO-MU!

THUS HE CAN OFFER NO THREAT TO *US!*

REMOVE THE FORCE FIELD! *WE* WILL DEAL WITH HIM!

BUT, NO SOONER IS THE FORCE FIELD DISSOLVED, THAN...

I'VE GOT TO SHATTER THEIR COMMUNICATION DEVICES!

THEY MUSTN'T BE ABLE TO WARN MRRUNGO-MU!

WHILE, BACK ON EARTH...

I MUST KEEP *ATTACKING*-- I DARE NOT GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO THINK OR SUSPECT!

THOUGH IT COST ME MY *LIFE*, WEYGAND MUST HAVE THE TIME HE NEEDS!

EVEN AT THE *HEIGHT* OF MY POWER, I SEEMED NO MATCH FOR MRRUNGO-MU!

AND NOW, BEING BUT *HALF* THE HERALD I WAS--

--THE LORD ENSLAVER *MOCKS* MY FUTILE ASSAULT!

YOU BE LIKE THE *GRASSHOPPER* ATTACKING THE *BULL!*

I BE MOST PLEASED! IT BE PROVEN THAT NOTHING IN THE UNIVERSE CAN MATCH MY POWER!

MRRUNGO-MU BE *LORD OF ALL!*

NOW IT BE TIME FOR THE GAME TO *END!*

YOUR FUTILE STRUGGLES, YOUR USELESS WRITHING BE NOW ABOUT TO *STOP!*

IT BE TIME TO *ABSORB* YOUR OWN PITIFUL STRENGTH INTO THE BODY OF MRRUNGO-MU!

AT THAT MOMENT, ON THE ENSLAVERS' MOTHER SHIP...

I'VE GOT TO CAUSE PANIC AND CONFUSION AMONG THE ENSLAVERS!

CAN'T GIVE THEM TIME TO THINK OR MUSTER THEIR FORCES!

BUT I CAN'T DO IT *ALONE!*

THE *BEASTS* THEY KEEP CHAINED UP! IF MY COSMIC BLAST CAN SET THEM FREE--

--THEIR *RAMPAGE* WILL DIVERT THE GUARDS! IT MAY BUY ME THE TIME I NEED!

MINUTES LATER...

I WAS *RIGHT!* I *FOUND* IT!

THE ENSLAVERS' *POWER PLANT!*

BUT HOW DO I BREACH ITS DEFENSES?

ON EARTH, MRRUNGO-MU HAS A SIMILAR PROBLEM...

I BE NOT ABLE TO ABSORB HIS STRENGTH!

THE SILVERY COATING THAT COVERS HIS BODY--IT BE *IMPENETRABLE* TO MY SIPHONING POWER!

THE SURFER TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE LORD ENSLAVER'S DISTRACTION, AND...

I'M *FREE!*

HE *SHATTERED* MY BOARD WITH A SINGLE BLAST-- AND CRACKED THE PROTECTIVE COATING OF MY SILVERY *BODY!*

YOU *DECEIVE* YOURSELF, DOOMED ONE!

NONE CAN BE FREE OF THE LORD ENSLAVER!

HE HAS DONE THE *UNDO-ABLE!*

THE FORCE OF MRRUNGO-MU'S BLAST SENDS THE BATTERED SKYRIDER CAREENING THROUGH BUILDING AFTER BUILDING...

...AS THE VICTORIOUS WAR CRY OF THE LORD ENSLAVER THREATENINGLY ECHOES THROUGH THE GLOOM OF THE CONQUERED CITY!

I BE MASTER OF ALL!

BUT ON THE MOTHER SHIP, ONLY THE SOUND OF ANGUISHED COSMIC FURY IS HEARD!

I'M FAILING! MY BLASTS HAVE NO EFFECT!

THE PROTECTIVE FORCE FIELD IS TOO STRONG!

MERELY HALF THE SURFER'S POWER ISN'T ENOUGH TO SMASH THROUGH!

THERE'S ONLY ONE OTHER CHANCE --THE FUEL INTAKE!

TO DESTROY IT HERE, FROM THE INSIDE, MEANS I'LL BEAR THE FULL BRUNT OF THE EXPLOSION!

BUT PERHAPS MY SILVER-COATED SKIN WILL SAVE ME!

PROTECTIVE DEVICES-- EVERYWHERE!

I'LL USE UP MY REMAINING STRENGTH JUST TRYING TO SAVE MYSELF!

BUT I NEED THAT STRENGTH TO DISABLE THE POWER PLANT!

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO-- THOUGH I'LL PAY WITH MY LIFE!

I'LL DROP MY DEFENSES--AND PLUNGE RIGHT IN!

FOR MANKIND-- AND THE SURFER!

PERHAPS NOW-- THE HUMAN RACE-- WILL--SOMEDAY-- FORGIVE ME...

AS THE HEROIC SCIENTIST BREATHES HIS LAST, THE COSMIC **ESSENCE** OF THE SILVER SURFER LEAVES HIS MARTYRED BODY...

...AND STREAKS TOWARD EARTH, WHENCE IT CAME!

EARTH, WHERE ANOTHER BODY LIES, BATTERED AND SPENT, ALL BUT DESTROYED BY THE BURGEONING POWER OF MRRUNGO-MU!

AS THE LORD ENSLAVER AND HIS ENTOURAGE TRIUMPHANTLY APPROACH...

SEE!! HE BLEEDS AS ONLY **HE** CAN!

THE COSMIC VAPORS BE OOZING FROM THE CRACKS IN HIS SILVER COATING!

ON YOUR FEET, SKYRIDER WHO WAS!

THIS BE THE TIME TO STARE INTO THE FACE OF **DEATH!**

I WILL LEAVE YOUR CARCASS TO DRIFT FOREVER IN SPACE, AS A WARNING TO THE GALAXIES THAT **I** BE GREATEST OF ALL!

AS MRRUNGO-MU PREPARES HIS DEATH BLOW, HE DOESN'T NOTICE THE COSMIC AURA ZOOMING TOWARDS HIS VICTIM...

AND NOW YOU **DIE!**

BEFORE THE LORD ENSLAVER CAN UNLEASH HIS BLAST, THE MIGHTY AURA **FINDS** ITS MARK!

MY COSMIC ESSENCE IS RESTORED!

WHAT **WIZARDRY** BE THIS?!!

WHAT SUDDEN SURGE OF **POWER** STRIKES ME LIKE A STARBURST?!!

INSTANTANEOUSLY, THE SURFER'S WOUNDS VANISH AS HIS COSMIC STRENGTH RETURNS!

NOW, ENSLAVER, LET US **SEE** WHERE-IN THE POWER LIES!

BUT HIS FIRST BLOW IS **NOT** AIMED AT MRRUNGO-MU!

INSTEAD, A MIGHTY COSMIC BOLT IS SENT STREAKING SKYWARD--

--TOTALLY **DESTROYING** THE LAST VESTIGES OF THE MOTHER SHIP'S POWER PLANT!

ABOARD THE GREAT SHIP, PANIC REIGNS, AS EVERY LAST IOTA OF POWER INSTANTANEOUSLY **VANISHES!**

ALL SYSTEMS ARE **DOWN!**

WE ARE **LOST!** WITHOUT POWER WE'RE **HELPLESS!**

WITH CONTROLS GONE, THE CELL DOORS SWING OPEN!

THE **BEASTS** ARE LOOSE!

FLEE FOR YOUR LIVES!

WITHIN MINUTES, PANDEMONIUM TAKES OVER! BEASTS AND GUARDS, WARRIORS AND SLAVES, ARE LOCKED IN DESPERATE BATTLE AS THE SHIP IS PLUNGED INTO CHAOS!

SO INDESCRIBABLY GREAT IS THE MOTHER SHIP'S ENERGY LOSS THAT THE VAPORS OF UNLEASHED CHEMICALS DRIFT DOWN TO ENCIRCLE THE EARTH!

THUS, WITH ONE SUDDEN SURGE, THE ENSLAVEMENT OF DECADES VANISHES IN THE NIGHT!

THE SHIMMERING, SLOWLY FADING CLOUD OF VAPOR TELLS ME WEYGAND HAS **TRIUMPHED!**

BUT HIS **ABSENCE** SUGGESTS HE HAS PAID A MOST TERRIBLE **PRICE!**

AND NOW, MRRUNGO-MU, WE JOIN IN FINAL BATTLE!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, SKY-RIDER?

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE!

I HAVE STRIPPED YOUR SHIP OF POWER-- THE POWER THAT HAS SUSTAINED YOU EVER!

I HAVE WEAKENED YOU, ENSLAVER!

WEAKENED ME? NEVER! EVEN WITHOUT THE POWER OF A BILLION BILLION SLAVES, I STILL BE MRRUNGO-MU!

I STILL BE MIGHTIEST OF ALL!

AND I HAVE THE POWER COSMIC!

NAUGHT BUT DEATH SHALL STAY MY HAND!

NORRIN, BEWARE! HE HAS THE STRENGTH TO FELL A PLANET!

HE HEARS, BUT DOES NOT HEED!

GALACTUS GAVE YOU YOUR POWER! I WAS BORN WITH MINE!

NO MAN BE THE EQUAL OF MRRUNGO-MU!

I AM MORE THAN MAN, ENSLAVER! I AM THE SILVER SURFER!

WHAT GALACTUS GAVE, HE GAVE FREELY!

WHAT I DO NOW, I DO FREELY!

NEVER HAVE I SO MUCH HUNGERED FOR A FOE TO FALL!

IT IS FAR BEYOND OUR POOR LITERARY SKILL TO APTLY DESCRIBE THE ENSUING BATTLE.

LET YOUR OWN DAZZLED EYES BEAR MUTE WITNESS!

WHAT MADNESS BE THIS?!! NONE HAVE EVER HURLED ME BACK! NONE HAVE EVER WEAKENED ME!

BOM!
NONE HAVE POSSESSED THE POWER COSMIC!

ON YOUR FEET, ENSLAVER! I AM NOT YET *DONE* WITH YOU!

TOO MANY TORTURED VICTIMS' VOICES CRY OUT FOR *VENGEANCE!*

ON YOUR FEET, I SAY!

I CANNOT *SLAY* ONE WHO LIES DORMANT AND SUPINE!

NO, SKYRIDER--*NO!* I BEG YOU!

TNNEYA! NOT EVEN YOU MAY STOP ME!

HE IS CRUEL, I GRANT YOU-- AND A TYRANT, YES!

BUT BY ENSLAVING OTHERS, HE KEPT HIS RACE *ALIVE* WHEN HIS PLANET WAS DYING!

IN THE BEGINNING, HE DID WHAT HE DID TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE!

IT WAS ONLY *LATER* THAT THE SAVAGERY AND THE LUST FOR POWER TURNED HIM MAD!

BUT BENEATH THE VIOLENCE, BENEATH THE DRIVE FOR CONQUEST, IS A *MAN* --A MAN OF UNBOUNDED COURAGE, OF FIERY PASSION!

MAY THE GODS FORGIVE ME--A MAN I *LOVE!*

I BEG YOU, SKYRIDER, THINK UPON IT.

HE LIES POWERLESS BEFORE YOU, A BROKEN MAN.

YOU HAVE STRIPPED HIM OF HIS GLORY AND HIS PRIDE.

MUST YOU STRIP HIM OF HIS LIFE, AS WELL?

TAKE HIM, AND BE DONE.

THE VICTORY IS YOURS, NORRIN RADD--JUST AS I AM YOURS, FOREVER!

NO, MY BELOVED --THE VICTORY IS OURS!

AND WOULD THAT THIS MOMENT COULD LIKE-WISE LAST FOREVER!

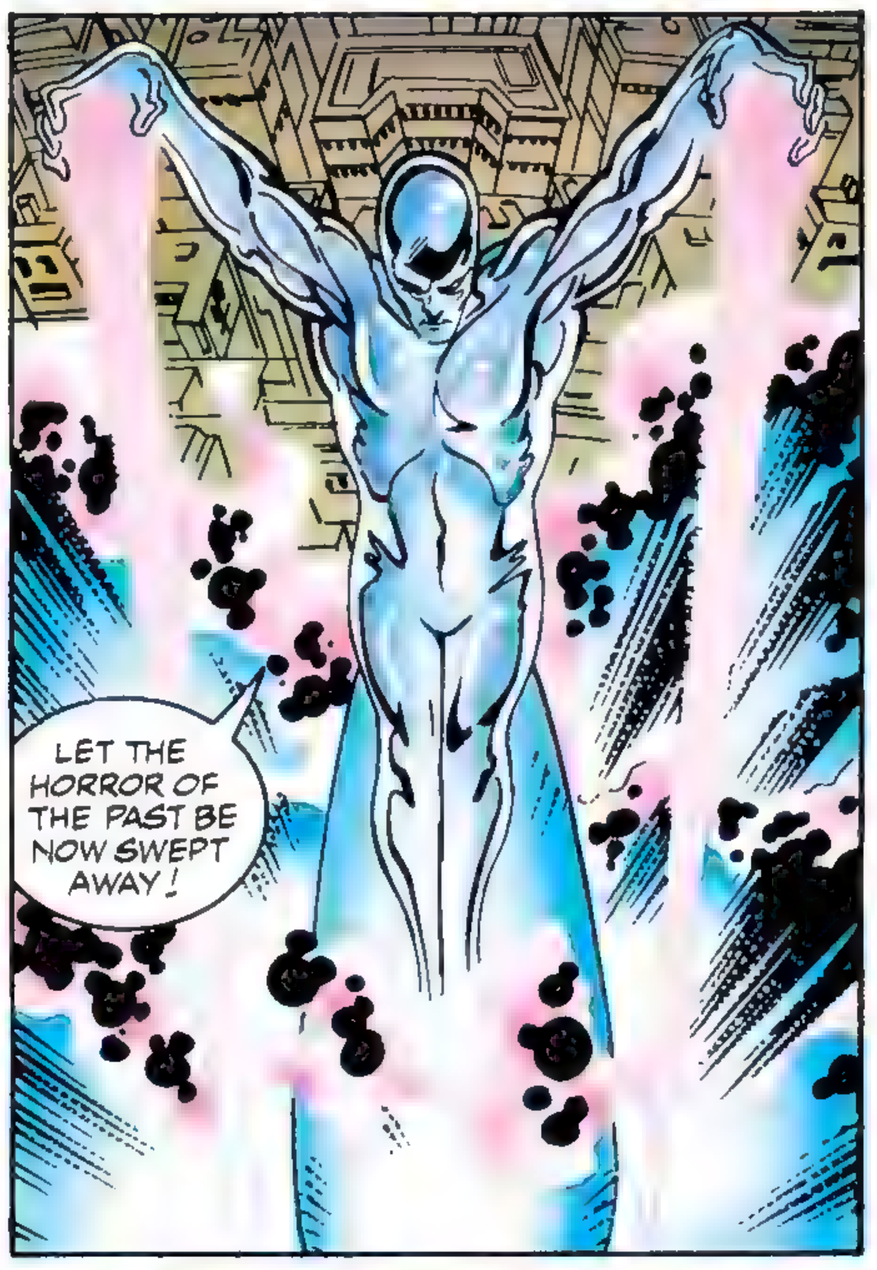
MOMENTS LATER, WITH MRRUNGO-MU ABOARD, THE GREAT SHIP DEPARTS, LEAVING BEHIND ITS CAPTIVES AND POWER CELLS--NEVER TO MENACE THE GALAXIES AGAIN!

EPILOGUE

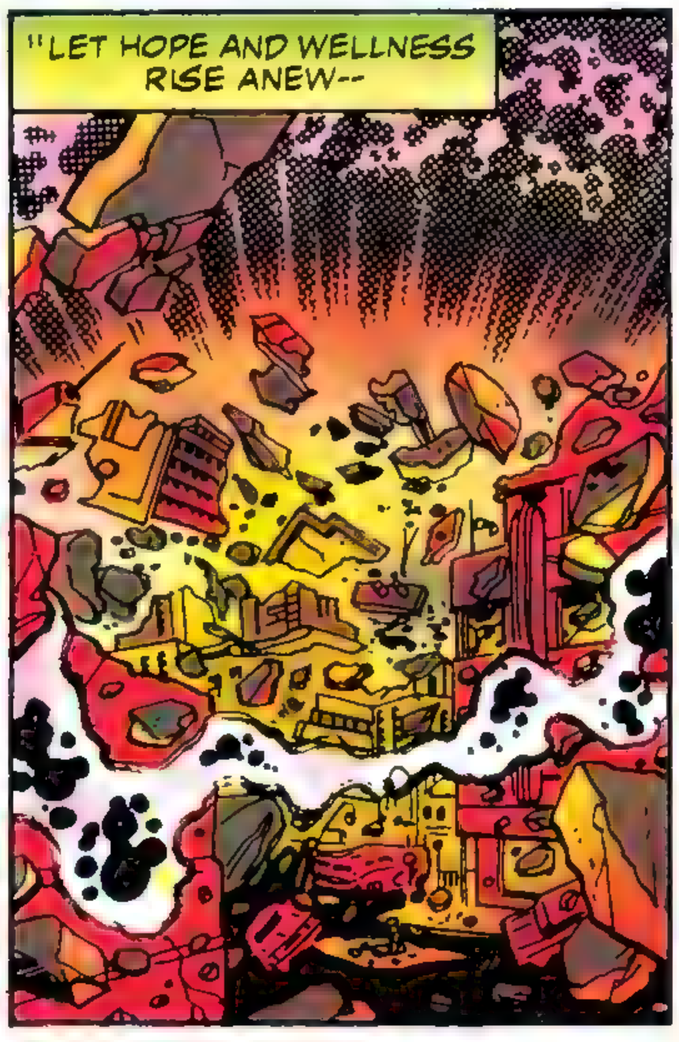
THE THREAT OF MRRUNGO-MU IS ENDED!
BUT ONE THING YET REMAINS FOR ME TO DO.

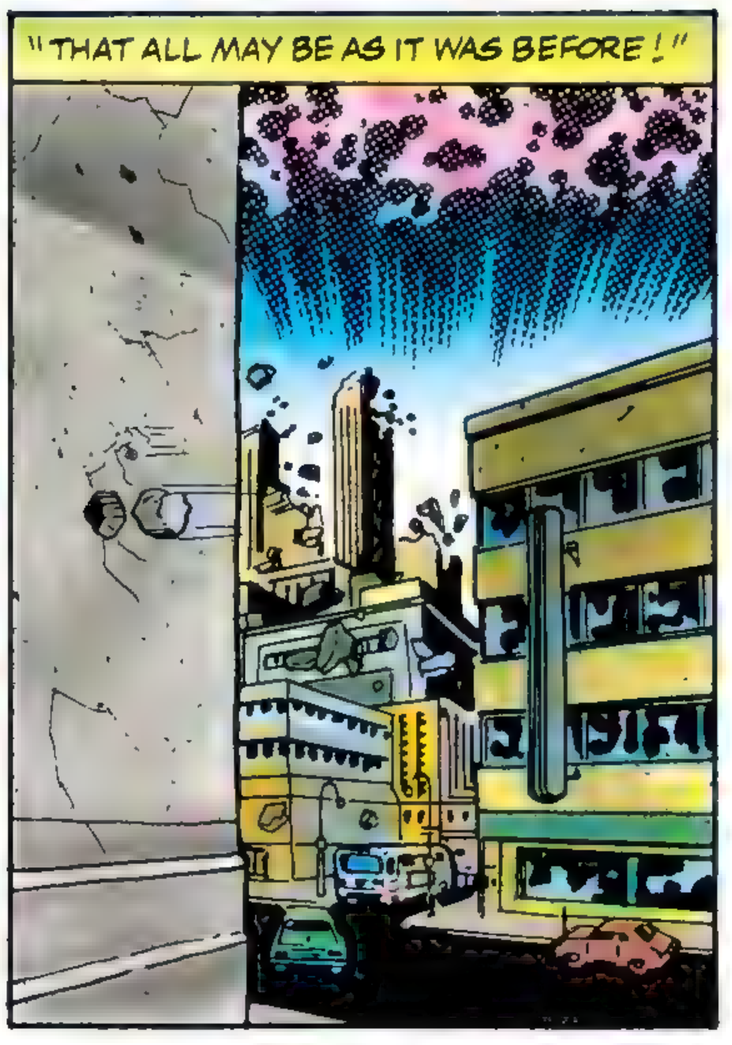
THE CITIES ARE RUBBLE, THE CITIZENRY IN A STATE OF SHOCK!

BY THE POWER COSMIC DEEP WITHIN ME, LET THAT WHICH HAS BEEN DESTROYED-- RE-INTEGRATE!


LET THE HORROR OF THE PAST BE NOW SWEPT AWAY!

" AND FROM THE ASHES OF CARNAGE AND DECAY--


"LET HOPE AND WELLNESS RISE ANEW--


"THAT ALL MAY BE AS IT WAS BEFORE!"

NOW TO RETURN TO THE ARMS OF SHALLA-BAL!

BUT WHAT IS *OCCURRING* ON THE ROOFTOP AHEAD?

A GATHERING OF *SUPER HEROES*, ATOP THE FAMED BAXTER BUILDING!

YO SURFER!

THEY *CHEER* ME!

HOW THEIR VOICES WARM MY HEART!

I, WHO HAVE KNOWN SUCH LONELINESS, SUCH ALIENATION, SHALL NEVER FORGET THIS MOMENT!

NEITHER WILL *WE*, HIGH FLYER! YOU'VE LENT NEW LUSTRE AND GLORY TO THE WORD *HERO*!

AS WELL YOU KNOW, I AM NOT ONE FOR SPEECHES.

BUT IF I WERE, MY WORDS WOULD EMBRACE YOU WITH LOVE AND JOY.

BUT WE MUST NOT ABANDON THOSE SO NEWLY FREED FROM MRRUNGO-MU!

I MUST GO, TO LEAD THEM TO THEIR HOMES AGAIN!

THOUGH THE JOURNEY WILL BE LONG AND ARDUOUS, I WELCOME IT!

FOR I SHALL NOT GO *ALONE!*

GODSPEED, OLD FRIEND. OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS GO WITH YOU.

COME BACK TO US, DEAR NORRIN. YOU'LL ALWAYS BE A PART OF OUR LIVES, AND EVER IN OUR HEARTS.

DO YOU THINK WE *WILL* RETURN?

ONLY TIME CAN TRULY TELL!

BUT *THIS* DO I SWEAR, BELOVED. IF FATE SHOULD GRANT THE CHANCE TO PASS THIS WAY AGAIN, NO POWER THAT LIVES SHALL STAY OUR JOURNEY!

AND SO IT COMES TO PASS THAT THE SILVER SURFER AND HIS LADY LEAD ONE OF THE GREATEST ARMADAS EVER ASSEMBLED -- AN ARMADA COSMICALLY CREATED OUT OF THE REMNANTS OF THE JETTISONED PODS FROM THE ENSLAV'ERS' MOTHER SHIP -- ON THEIR MISSION OF RECLAMATION AND RESETTLEMENT!

IT'S LIKE A GLORIOUS DREAM, BELOVED! THE TWO OF US TOGETHER, AT LAST-- WITH THE WHOLE DAZZLING UNIVERSE UNFOLDING BEFORE US!

AND WHATEVER MAY BEFALL, WE'LL FACE IT BOLD AND UNAFRAID! FOR NOTHING CAN TARNISH THE RAPTURE OF THIS MOMENT, JUST AS NOTHING CAN DESTROY THE ETERNAL WONDER OF OUR LOVE!

And there you have it! One of the longest uninterrupted comic book epics of all! (And don't be a wise guy and say, "It only *seemed* like the longest!")

After reading all those countless panels, the last thing you need is some more long-winded verbiage from me. But we find ourselves with another page to fill, so it looks like you're stuck!

Anyway, this is as good a time as any to tell you a little about the history behind an illustrated saga that was almost a decade in the making!

It started in the early 1980's. Jim Shooter, who was then Marvel's editor in chief, asked if I'd like to do a Silver Surfer yarn with Keith Pollard. Hey, that's like asking Galactus if he'd like a nice, juicy planet to munch on! Any writer who wouldn't leap at a chance to collaborate with a talent like Keith should be sentenced to writing greeting cards for Irving Forbush!

Anyway, in a feeding frenzy of enthusiasm I raced to the ol' computer and wrote a story outline which I promptly sent to High-Pockets Shooter, with a copy to Keith. Remember now, that was in the early '80s.

About seven or eight years later I got a call from Titanic Tom DeFalco who had since replaced Jim as Marvel's editor in chief. "Hey, Stan, remember that Silver Surfer story Keith Pollard was supposed to draw? Well, he finally finished it! How soon can you write it? You see, editor Bobbie Chase says it's in a rush!" And y'know something? When I finally saw the artwork, I realized Keith had probably lost my plot during those years, because he had drawn virtually a different story of his own!

So now you know why I refer to our bullpen as the home of the Merry Marvel Maniacs! As a matter of fact though, looking over Keith's awesome artwork once again, I think the long wait was easily worth it. Hope you agree.

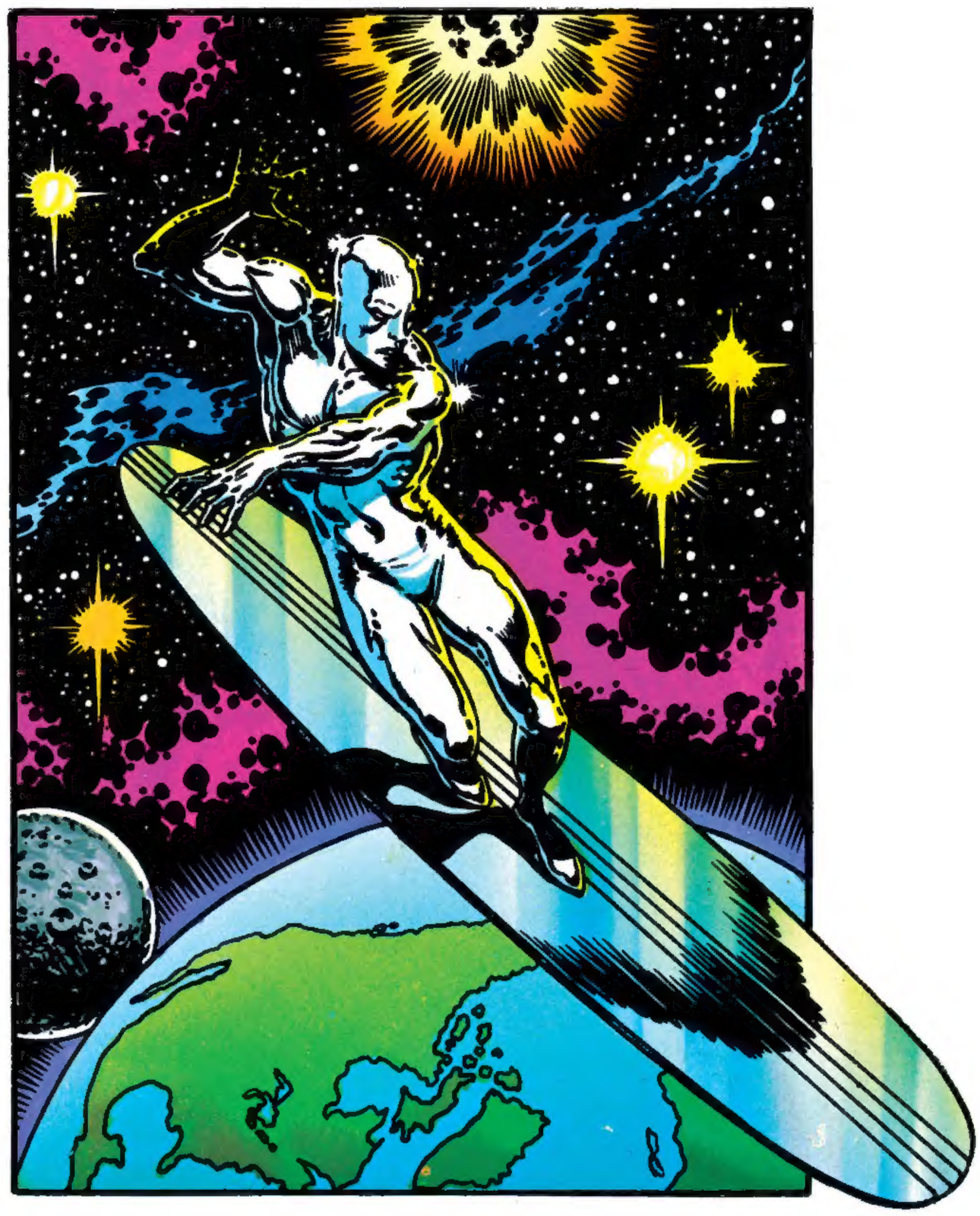
But I can't let you tenderly whisper sayonara and head for your home planet before telling you the most important thing of all . . .

When you discuss Mrrungo-Mu at your next book club meeting, always remember—the second "r" in his name is silent!

Excelsior!

Stan

SILVER SURFER
pollard



FOR A LISTING OF MORE MARVEL COLLECTIONS, DOWNLOAD

Go to your local comic shop to pick up these great collections!

And stay tuned to the Marvel App for more amazing collection releases.

To find a comic shop near you visit www.comicshoplocator.com